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THE

UNITED BRETHREN'S

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCER,

AND

Religious Miscellany;

CONTAINING THE MOST RECENT ACCOUNTS RELATING TO THE UNITED BRETHREN'S MISSIONS AMONG THE HEATHEN; WITH OTHER INTERESTING COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RECORDS OF THAT CHURCH.

No. 3.] THIRD QUARTER, 1840. [Vol. VII.

[From the "Periodical Accounts," &c.]

I. LABRADOR.

LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE BRETHREN'S SOCIETY FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL, FROM THE MISSIONARIES ON THE COAST OF LABRADOR, IN THE YEAR 1839.

"*Okkak, September 4th*, 1839.

"Dear Brethren,—Having learned from our Esquimaux, some weeks ago, that no drift-ice was to be seen, from the summits of the highest mountains, as far as the eye could reach, we were led to indulge the hope, that the Harmony would, this year, reach our coast earlier than usual. Great, therefore, was our disappointment, when the month of August arrived, and day after day passed without our receiving the intelligence of her approach, for which we were waiting so impatiently. Our minds were filled with anxiety and apprehension, and we began to give credit to the rumors which had been in circulation, during the winter, of a war having broken out between England and the United States, and that this was the cause of our communication with Europe being interrupted. The Lord was, however, better to us than our fears, and turned our anxieties into thanksgiving and praise, for the merciful protection vouchsafed to the ship and company, of whose safe arrival at Hopedale we had the pleasure to hear in due season.

"In proceeding to notice the leading occurrences in the history of the Mission during the past year, we have to inform you, that, on the 1st of May last, it pleased the Lord to call home to Himself our dear Brother Samuel Stürman, by means of an apoplectic seizure. He had attained to the age of 63 years, whereof nearly 37 had been spent in Missionary service among the Esquimaux. To the congregation belonging to this settlement, where he had been stationed 35 years, he was greatly endeared, and its increase, both in number and in grace, during this lengthened period, afforded him unfeigned joy. We can give our late Brother the testimony, that he was a faithful

laborer in the Lord's vineyard, and that he had no greater delight than in being instrumental in gaining souls for the Saviour. His memory will be blessed among us. On May the 5th, his remains were interred in our burial-ground, in the hope of a joyful resurrection.

"Several other members of our Mission-family suffered more or less from illness during the past year. In November, Sister Hertzberg was confined to her bed for several days by a severe attack of colic; and, in the February following, her husband had to keep his room for above a week, owing to a sharp attack of indisposition. For the eventual recovery of both we were truly thankful. Our dear Sister Sturman, in whose affliction we deeply sympathize, purposes returning to Europe with her little son Henry. May the Lord be her comfort and her support, and bring her in safety across the ocean to her friends and native land. We have no need specially to commend her to your brotherly attentions.

"We were thankful to learn from your valued letter, that the Lord had laid His blessing on the disposal of the cargo of last year; and that, notwithstanding the unusual amount of articles of various kinds which we found it necessary to request you to send out to us, no pecuniary embarrassment had been occasioned to your Society. We would offer you, meanwhile, our grateful acknowledgments for the abundant provision which you have again made for the supply of our wants.

"The Lord has been graciously with us, and assisted us in the performance of our several duties during the year past. We can declare with truth, that He has been our Counsellor in seasons of difficulty, and our Helper in every time of need. The state of our congregation has been, on the whole, encouraging to us, as may be inferred from the fact, that we have not been under the painful necessity of excluding a single individual from our fellowship. In the early part of the winter, the meetings were diligently attended; as the season advanced, we remarked, however, to our sorrow, that some fell into the habit of absenting themselves occasionally, even on the Lord's day. We did not neglect to set before them the danger as well as the sinfulness of such indifference, and our admonitions and warnings were not without effect. The declarations of many, at the individual speaking, were satisfactory, inasmuch as they testified a sincere desire to live unto the Lord who had bought them with His precious blood. Although we cannot say that the practice of all corresponds with their profession, we rejoice to be able to believe, that the conversation of many is such as becometh the Gospel of Christ.

"In the spring of the present year, an Esquimaux brother, of the name of David, experienced a remarkable preservation of his life, the particulars of which are worth recording, as they tend to show that, in the hour of trial, our Esquimaux know to whom to take their refuge. It was on the 22d of April, that David went out to hunt seals upon the ice. Having succeeded in killing one, he proceeded to secure his prize, and while thus engaged, a violent ground-swell detached, from the great mass, the field of ice on which he was, and carried him out to sea upon it, together with his sledge and dogs.

For five days he was driven about upon the waves, and was once so far from the land as altogether to have lost sight of it. It was not till the sixth day that he was again within the reach of the firm ice. Having gained it, he left his sledge and dogs, and made the best of his way on foot to his family, with whom, to the surprise and joy of all, he arrived on the 4th of May, after an absence of twelve days. The following day he came hither. He related to us, that when the ground-swell had broken into pieces the field of ice on which he was standing, so that his sledge seemed often more under than above the water, he seated himself upon the sledge, on which he had also placed the slaughtered seal, and cried incessantly to the Lord, that He would either mercifully spare his life, or pardon his sins and take him to Himself. 'Now,' added he, 'that the Lord has so graciously heard me, and delivered me from death, contrary to all expectation, it is my desire and determination to devote myself to Him, with spirit, soul, and body.' May the Lord give him grace to keep this resolution.

"Of the operations of the Spirit of God on the hearts of our people, we have had many encouraging evidences, especially among the youth of both sexes committed to our charge. Three of the latter, two boys and a girl, have been added to the Church by holy baptism.

"During the last year, 8 adults, who had been baptized in infancy, were received into the congregation, and 15 admitted to the Holy Communion.

"Our congregation consists, at present, of 344 persons, of whom 146 are communicants, 50 baptized adults, and 134 baptized children.

"Our schools and meetings for religious instruction have been well attended, and the improvement of the children has been generally satisfactory, though there are some who, owing to carelessness or stupidity, make but little progress.

"The supply of food for our Esquimaux proved far from abundant, but though some of our Esquimaux had, in consequence, to suffer want, absolute famine was mercifully averted.

"The winter was rather protracted than severe. Our bay was frozen towards the end of November, and not till the 4th of July were we permitted to see it again free from ice. The snow which fell in April and May, was very troublesome, and a great hinder ance to the Esquimaux, who were out upon the rein-deer hunt. Throughout the winter, our Mission-family was plentifully supplied with rein-deer flesh. as well as with partridges (ripper) and hares. Our garden has yielded us a plentiful return of potatoes, and other useful vegetables, for which we cannot be too thankful. They also promise tolerably well for this year.

"On the 31st of August, the Harmony arrived safely in our bay, and we had the pleasure to welcome Brother and Sister Knaus as our future fellow-laborers at this station.

"Saluting you with true brotherly affection, and requesting you to convey the expression of our cordial esteem and gratitude to our British friends and benefactors, and especially to the members of the London Association, we remain your faithful Brethren.

"C. B. Henn, G. Hertzberg, F. Erdman."

FROM HEBRON.

"*August* 29*th*, 1839.

"Dear Brethren,—Well informed as are the members of your Society, in regard to the leading features of our position, and deeply interested as you have shown yourselves to be in all that concerns our persons and our service, it is impossible for you to form an adequate idea of the joy which pervades our breasts when the Harmony is seen approaching our rocky shores. Those who would fully enter our feelings must, like us, have known what it is to be separated by a vast ocean from their relatives, friends, and Christian brethren; and to be dependent, both for a supply of the comforts of life, and for intelligence of every kind, especially such as relates to their families and to the progress of the Gospel throughout the world, on the arrival of a single vessel once in the year. What thankful emotions should fill, and we trust do fill, our hearts, as often as we hear the glad tidings, that the ship, through the protecting care of our God, has reached her first anchorage on this coast, without any injury to her cargo, or serious accident to her passengers or crew. The rumors of war, which reached us during the spring of the present year, made us feel peculiarly anxious this time for the receipt of this welcome intelligence; and it was, therefore, not without impatience that we waited for it till the 14th of August. The name of the Lord be praised for His goodness, and for His wonderful works, displayed to us His unworthy servants.

"To the congregations in London and Ockbrook we beg to return our special thanks, for the present of chandeliers and sconces for our newly-built church, to which they will be an equally useful and ornamental appendage. May our dear fellow-worshippers be reminded, by the material light which shines from them, of the far more precious spiritual light which the Word of God, faithfully preached and devoutly received, conveys to the seeking soul, and by which the believer is enabled to discern and proceed safely in the way that leads to life eternal.

"On a retrospect of the past twelve months, we are filled with gratitude to our merciful Lord, for the daily and unmerited blessings which He has bestowed upon us and our Esquimaux flock. We have been preserved from Epidemic and malignant disorders, and even the damp and unwholesome weather, which succeeded several days of extreme heat, passed off without the unfavorable consequences we had been led to anticipate. The state of our dear Brother and Sister Morhardt's health was the only circumstance which caused us serious anxiety. For a considerable time Brother Morhardt had to suffer from a rheumatic affection, and his dear wife had so severe an attack of illness in June, that we almost despaired of her recovery. The Lord was, however, pleased to bless the means used for her restoration, though we regret to have to add, that the health of both remains delicate.

"For the temporal necessities of our Esquimaux our Heavenly Father graciously provided. Those who were diligent in fishing

obtained an abundant supply of salmon-trout, a considerable number of seals were also taken in nets, and the rein-deer hunt proved unusually successful. Our Mission-family was favored with a plentiful crop of such vegetables as can be raised in this barren soil and rigorous climate;—a benefit for which we cannot be too grateful. The winter proved cold and stormy; but the quantity of snow which fell was extremely small. This circumstance was the means of ridding us of the countless swarms of mice which had hitherto infested the land like a plague; destroying the vegetables in our garden by wholesale. At present not a single one is to be seen. Of firing we have had a sufficiency; and the stock we have laid by will probably last us for two years to come.

"As far as our short-sightedness permits us to form a judgment, we may venture to say, that there has been a perceptible progress made by our small Esquimaux flock, in the knowledge and practice of godliness. Though we cannot yet speak of a general awakening, it is very clear to us, that many of the younger members of our congregation, have been powerfully apprehended by Divine grace, and among them are some who appeared before to be dead in trespasses and sins. We trust and believe, that He who has begun this good work in them, will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ. We rejoice to be able to inform you, that the four persons whom we were under the painful necessity of excluding from our fellowship in 1838, have been re-admitted in the course of the past year, and their conduct has since been such, as to give us reason to hope, that their repentance has been sincere, and that the change they have experienced has been wrought by the Holy Spirit. In some of our people we have noticed, with concern, a tendency to absent themselves from the service of the Lord's house; and though we are aware that excuses may be offered for this neglect, we cannot help thinking that the desire of edification must have slackened in those who are chargeable with it. In some instances, too eager pursuit of temporal advantage is doubtless the cause, and of the danger of yielding to this temptation we feel it our duty to warn our flock. With reference to this subject, we cannot help mentioning how much we were edified by the behavior of our chapel-servant, Renatus, who, on being admonished to spare his lame knee, and not go so frequently to church, replied—'I cannot resolve to forego any of the meetings, for they supply real nourishment for my soul.' In the revision of the New Testament, with which we were lately occupied, this worthy man was our assistant, and we are very glad to find, not only that his knowledge and understanding of the truths of Scripture were hereby greatly promoted, but they had also been made the means of spiritual benefit to the inmates of his house,—for he is one that does not bury his talent, but that puts it out to interest.

"The rising generation has continued to be an especial object of our attention, and one that has afforded us much encouragement. From fifteen to twenty children more than during the former year, were in attendance on the school, and of these some were of the age of infancy. Having heard from several of the parents, that their

younger children were desirous to receive instruction, as well as the older, we resolved to make a trial with them. We had scarcely given notice of our intention, when eight presented themselves for instruction, whose ages were between three and five years. At first their bashfulness, and our want of acquaintance with the system of infant-school teaching, proved hinderances in our way; but these soon vanished, when we had got a little accustomed to each other, and experience had taught us how to proceed. We consider that much has been gained for their future education, if they can be early led to imbibe a fondness for schools, and made to sit still and give their attention to what is going forward. Several of these little ones have made very good progress in reading. One little girl, not four years old, distinguished herself greatly by her diligence and corresponding progress; before the school closed, she had committed to memory the Ten Commandments, and a number of verses of well-known hymns, and such pleasure did she take in them, that she would frequently repeat them to the inmates of the house in which she lived.

"Our annual school-examination afforded us much satisfaction, and all present expressed their pleasure on hearing the youngest of our pupils repeat a short prayer or passage of Scripture. Many of the children were induced to attend the school with the greater regularity, by the occasional exhibition of a number of Scripture prints, the meaning of which we never failed to explain to them. Their simple accounts of what they had seen and heard, excited in their parents a desire to be favored in a similar way, and we found ourselves, in consequence, obliged to devote some hours, from time to time, to the instruction of these grown-up-children,—for such we may, indeed, consider the majority of our people,—by means of these illustrations of the Bible-history. To the kind friend who has provided us with a farther supply of Scripture prints, we feel ourselves, therefore, under great obligations.

"Of our attempts to make known the glad tidings of salvation to the Northland heathen, we are unable to make as gratifying a report as we could wish. Those who visited us during the winter, seemed to have little inclination to receive the Gospel. Some men from the neighborhood of Cape Chudleigh, who attended our Christmas services, appeared very attentive, and, as we were afterwards informed, made a report of what they had heard and seen, to the heathen whom they met with on their return home. At Easter we were visited by others from the same district, among whom were some females, who appeared to have a desire after the Gospel; but as their husbands could not resolve to forsake their heathenish ways and mode of life, they were obliged to forego the opportunity of receiving further instruction. Disheartening as these circumstances are, we would by no means yield to the desponding thought, that the Gospel of salvation must continue to be a sealed message to our heathen neighbors; rather will we be more faithful in exertion, and more earnest in prayer, that the great object of our abode at this place may, in the Lord's own time, be effectually attained. Assist us, dear Brethren, with your intercessions at the throne of grace.

"During the past year, 3 adults and 12 children were baptized, and one person was admitted to the Lord's Supper. Our little flock consists, at present, of 153 individuals, besides 12, as yet unbaptized; total 165 persons.

"On the 16th of September, we had the joy to see the Harmony arrive in our bay, after encountering a three days' storm, when within sight of the coast. To Brother Vollprecht we gave a cordial welcome, as a future fellow-servant at this station. Brother Freitag having been invited to pay a visit to Germany, we commend him to the blessing and protection of our Saviour, and to your brotherly attentions during his sojourn in London.

"Accept the assurance of our unfeigned esteem and affection, and continue to remember us and our congregation in your prayers.

"J. L. MORHARDT, JON. MENTZEL,
FRED. KRUTH, A. FREITAG."

FROM NAIN.

"OF the grace of God prevailing in our Esquimaux congregation, we are thankful witnesses; nevertheless, we dare not close our eyes to the fact, that Satan is making a great effort to destroy, or at all events, seriously to interrupt, the work of God among us. Through the instrumentality of the Southlanders, he has begun to tempt our Esquimaux to the free use of spirituous liquors,—a dangerous snare, into which their love of novelty and their weakness of character might easily cause them to fall. We have, in consequence, found it needful to take decisive measures to ward off the apprehended evil, by giving notice, that any person addicting himself to the use of brandy must immediately leave our settlement. Since this resolution was taken, we have had the grief to see ten individuals leave us, and remove to the southward, where they may freely indulge their carnal appetites. May the Lord have mercy upon them, and bring them to true repentance.

"The copies of the revised edition of the Gospels, which we received this year through the liberality of the British and Foreign Bible Society, proved a most welcome and seasonable present. As soon as it was known that they were in our possession, our Esquimaux eagerly applied for copies, which we the more readily gave, because they were on the point of setting out for their several fishing-places, where we are thankful to know, they are in the habit of reading the Word of God daily in their families. Copies of the Summary of Christian Doctrine, and of the Tracts, both of which we owe to the kindness of the Religious Tract Society, we shall take an opportunity of distributing, when our people return to us for the winter.

"The clarionet which a friend was so kind as to send us last year, came as though it had been bespoken, one of those which we had hitherto used at church having become quite unserviceable. The use of this excellent instrument has tended, therefore, greatly to enliven our public and private worship, and we beg to offer the donor our cordial thanks, as well as those of our Esquimaux.

"JOHN LUNDBERG."

"During the greater part of the past twelve months, both my wife and myself have been favored to enjoy a good state of health, and have been enabled to perform, with pleasure and alacrity, our allotted tasks.

"Since the arrival of the Harmony, it has, however, pleased the Lord, to visit me with a serious attack of illness, from which I am by no means fully restored. You may easily believe, that to be laid aside from duty at this busy season, is a severe trial to me, yet I should be still more distressed, were I to be prevented from doing my part towards the repairs and improvements of our Mission-premises, which are to be taken in hand. My constitution is, indeed, such as to require me to use frequent bodily exercise.

"F. C. FRITSCHE."

FROM HOPEDALE.

"Among the heathen who live to the southward of us, a more earnest desire for Gospel instruction has of late manifested itself, and we cannot help being of opinion, that were it not for the hurtful influence of the settlers, with whom they are in habits of constant intercourse, there would be reason to hope for good effects from an occasional visit to them. Thankful shall we be for the removal of the obstacles, which at present stand in the way of our laboring for their spiritual benefit. Not long ago, our Esquimaux Brother Zacharias, fell in with two Indians from the interior, whom at first sight he mistook for Europeans. The language they spoke was quite unintelligible to him, nor were they able to understand his. By signs they intimated that their home was far inland, though they could not point out the exact direction. Each of them had a gun, and was clothed in a kind of smock, the legs and feet remaining bare. The invitation given them by Zacharias to accompany him home, they declined to accept, and the younger wept at the very idea of such a visit.

"Z. GLITSCH."

"The year past was one of much spiritual and temporal blessing for our Esquimaux flock. The attendance on the means of grace was very encouraging, and many seemed to press onward in the heavenly race. Both in the seal-hunt and the cod-fishery, they were favored with much success; and the supply of provision for themselves and families was consequently abundant. Among other spoils of the season, were five white (or polar) bears. Two of these immense animals had come within gun-shot of our premises, when they were discovered and killed by our people.

"J. P. STOCK."

FROM OKKAK.

"Last winter I had the care of the boys' school, but the season seemed one of peculiar dulness, for I had not the satisfaction of teaching one of the six younger children, who attended the school for the first time, to learn to read. The readiness with which they

commit the alphabet to memory is meanwhile more remarkable to us, than profitable to them: since it leads them to guess one letter after the other, till they have hit upon the right one. To learn any thing by heart seems easy to them, but where thought is required, they are generally found wanting. My attempt to teach some of them cyphering, has for the present failed, but I shall hope some day to renew it. It is much to be regretted, that at the age, when their faculties, such as they are, are beginning to expand, they are so often required to accompany their fathers on the seal-hunt, or to engage in other needful occupations, for the maintenance of their respective families. Though I have met with many of the boys, who could count as far as 500 with ease and correctness, even these were apt to be puzzled by the question, 'How much is twice one?" When, however, I asked, 'If your father catches one seal to-day, and to-morrow two seals, how many has he in all?' they had an answer immediately ready. In due time, they were able to add up considerable sums, and even to learn by heart the multiplication-table. For each of the boys belonging to the first class, about 20 in number, I took the trouble to note down on paper the division of the year into months, weeks, and days, together with the names of the several months, and how many days there are in each, and as I made a practice of questioning them daily on the subject, in due time the majority had acquired the wished for information.

"I have still to mention a fact related to us by our Esquimaux, viz: that throughout the whole night following the 16th of July, they had observed a fiery appearance in the heavens, varied with frequent flashes of lightning. They inquired if we could tell them what was the cause of it, which of course we could not. We were, however, reminded by it, of the singular phenomena which occurred in the year 1822, when there was a general darkness over the whole sky, and a great quantity of fine ashes was discharged from the atmosphere. It was natural to ascribe this circumstance to a volcanic eruption; but though our Esquimaux have penetrated to a considerable distance into the interior of the country, we have never yet heard of their having discovered an active volcano.

"F. Erdman."

"The word of the cross has also, during the year past, approved itself to be the power of God unto salvation to all them that believe, among the dwellers at this place. Though we long to see more of the fruits of the Spirit, in the life and conversation of our church-members, a greater deadness to the world, and a more intense desire after heavenly and eternal things, we are thankful to be able to testify, that there is a general disposition to listen to the voice of exhortation and reproof, when these are rendered necessary by the indifference of some to the means of grace, and the deviations of others from the narrow path of Christian holiness. Of a refractory or contentious spirit, we have not in general to complain.

"C. B. Henn."

"After the departure of the Harmony in the autumn of last year, we were busily occupied for about a fortnight in harvesting our thin crops of hay, and were thankful to be able to collect a sufficient quantity for the winter-food of our few goats. The drying of the cod which we had taken, and of which the number was unusually large, was not a little impeded by the wet weather; but we secured as many as we required for our own use, and for the assistance of the more needy of our people. The Esquimaux were not very successful in catching seals, previous to the setting in of the winter, and many had to subsist almost entirely on dried fish. Nor had they much better success in the use of the nets, which they were very near losing altogether, owing to the peculiar state of the weather and the sea. In the spring, instances occurred, of the poor people who were at the fishing-places, having to eat some of their dogs, to save themselves from starving; but in general, though there was scarcity of food, famine was mercifully averted.

"G. HERTZBERG."

FROM HEBRON.

"I was prevented by repeated attacks of illness which befel me, during the year past, from making all the progress I could have wished, in my pleasant and profitable employment of translating portions of Holy Scriptures. Meanwhile, I have not been altogether idle, having been enabled, through the Lord's gracious help, to bring to a close my version of the remaining four books of Moses, on which I have been laboring for several years past, as also translations of the prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, and the book of Lamentations. These imperfect attempts will be shortly submitted to the revision of my Brethren at the other stations, and I shall proceed with the translation of the prophet Daniel, which I have already commenced. The work is one in which I take great delight, and find abundant refreshment for my own soul, and to which I would therefore gladly devote all the leisure I can command. I am well aware, that there are many passages in the Scriptures of the Old Testament, which our Esquimaux cannot comprehend; but is not this the same with ourselves, particularly in regard to the prophetic writings? How many precious truths and important facts, will first be fully revealed to us by the progress of events; for which divinely ordained commentary, we are required submissively to wait. But we have had encouraging proofs, that even a poor Esquimaux, who peruses the Scriptures of the Old Testament with reverence, and with an earnest desire to be led by the Spirit of God into all truth, and to apprehend that to which he has not already attained, is taught thereby to know more of his own sinfulness and depravity, and to tremble at the consequences to which they naturally tend. Is he then led by the Holy Spirit to Golgotha, he finds pardon, and peace, and rest for his soul, and experiences the truth of the well-known and emphatic declaration of the Apostle, in 2 *Tim.* iii. 16, 17. In connection with this subject, I cannot help mentioning a circumstance related to me

by our dear Brother Meisner, when we last met in September, 1838. It happened, that soon after the receipt of the printed copies of the prophecies of Isaiah, in the summer of 1837, a young Esquimaux of Hopedale congregation that formed the design of removing with his family to the settlers in the south, but not wishing the Missionaries to know of it, he kept his preparations secret, and meanwhile maintained with them his usual friendly intercourse. His purpose coming to the ears of Amos, the faithful assistant and chapel servant at that place, the latter went to him with the book of the prophet Isaiah in his hand, and opening it, read to him the following words from Chapter xxix. verse 15: '*Woe unto them, that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us, and who knoweth us?*' Nor was the warning thus given, altogether without the desired effect.

"J. L. Morhardt."

"Our schools were well attended all last winter. With the little children Brother Freytag took a great deal of pains, which were not left unrewarded. Having written the letters of the alphabet on small pieces of wood, he gave them to the children to play with, and by this means, many of their number learnt their letters, before the winter was over. At the school-examination, even children of four years of age were able to repeat one of the commandments, or the verse of a hymn. May our gracious Saviour inscribe the lessons of his love on their tender hearts. Some of the older boys I have attempted to instruct in cyphering, and one succeeded so far as to master the multiplication-table. For music they show more of natural talent. Several of our young people have come and asked me, if I could not procure for them a common flute. I was sorry I had none to give; perhaps this mention of the desire of the applicants, may induce some kind friend or friends to help us out. There is no danger of the instrument being used for any profane purpose. Brother Mentzel is at present teaching three Esquimaux to play on the trombone, and Brother Morhardt gives occasional lessons on the pianoforte and organ to three others.

"Our efforts for the conversion of the Northland heathen have hitherto been attended with but small success. Sometimes, in moments of faithlessness, I am tempted to think, that the Lord has already taken out of the Esquimaux nation, the people for his name, whom He has foreknown, and that we must not look for any considerable increase to the congregations under our care; but this discouraging thought is soon banished by the reflection, that Jesus is the Saviour of all men, and that our God will have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. The time may be nearer than we imagine, when the word of Jesus' patience, which we proclaim, will reach the hearts of our heathen neighbors, and when a goodly number of them also shall be gained for him, and shall swell the reward for the travail of the Redeemer's soul.

"F. Kruth."

[From the "Periodical Accounts," &c.]

II. GREENLAND.

The following extracts of letters, received from the two northern settlements of New-Herrnhut and Lichtenfels, will be read with interest. They bear testimony to the Divine blessing which has rested on the labors of our Missionaries during another year of persevering toil and patient endurance, and contain several striking observations and details relative to the past and present state of these earliest of our arctic stations. In both will be found some affecting particulars of the sufferings and distress occasioned by an epidemic disorder, which broke out among the Greenlanders in the autumn of 1838, and continued severely and fatally prevalent throughout the ensuing winter. At such seasons of trial, it is cheering to know that the sufferers "seek unto their God," and that the fruits of faith in Christ their Saviour are rendered abundantly manifest. Several members of the Mission-family at New-Herrnhut appear to have been more or less seriously affected by illness,—the effect, in a great measure, of over-exertion both of mind and body. The congregations at that settlement, and at Lichtenfels, have sustained severe losses by the retirement of the Brethren J. Lehman and M. Eberle, which have taken place in the course of the past and the present year, and each of whom had labored with faithfulness and success, as a Missionary to the Greenland nation, for a period of thirty-five years.

The kind contributors to the Greenland coal-fund will observe with satisfaction, that their benevolent aid has enabled our Brethren at New-Herrnhut to provide a warm apartment for the use of their school, nor can it be doubted, that an equal benefit has resulted from the application of the generous gift placed at their disposal, by friends in England and on the Continent, for the relief of such of their converts as are suffering from the effects of poverty or disease, or any other providential visitation.

From the two more southern stations of Lichtenau and Frederickstha1, no accounts have been received up to the present date.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BROTHER CHARLES AUG. ULLBRIGHT.

"*New-Herrnhut, July 9th*, 1839.

"Dear Brother,—I was sorry to learn from your kind letter of the 26th of March, that, for two years past, you have been disappointed in your expectations of receiving direct accounts from this oldest of our northern Missionary stations. The cause of this failure was, as you suppose, the severe illness of Brother Lehman, which disabled him from writing in 1837, and his subsequent retirement from the service of the Mission, which led to a similar result in 1838. As you seem disposed to take me for a correspondent, in the room of my dear and venerable predecessor in office, whose character and services will long be held in affectionate remembrance by his fellow-

laborers, and the Greenland flock to which he so faithfully ministered, I can only assure you, that it will afford me sincere pleasure to accept the terms you offer, and to communicate to you such intelligence respecting the progress of the Mission at this place, as may be interesting to yourself and our esteemed British friends.

"My first report, I am concerned to think, will be of a less cheering complexion, in some respects, than those you have of late years received from this country. The winter portion of the past twelve months proved a very trying season both to us and our Greenlanders. The cold was not, indeed, of the most intense description, but the duration was almost unprecedented; and the frequency and violence of the storms, and the unusual quantity of snow with which they were accompanied, added no little to the suffering hereby occasioned. Even as late as the end of May, the whole surface of the ground, some few sheltered places excepted, was completely covered with snow. This severity of the weather brought in its train sickness and distress. In the month of September, a malignant disorder, resembling the hooping-cough, broke out among the Greenlanders, having probably been brought from Europe by the ships which had lately visited the coast, and, in a short time, a great number of individuals of all ages were laid up by it. Of the older patients several departed this life, while others continued long to suffer from a troublesome affection of the chest, which the complaint seemed to leave behind it. It also proved fatal to fourteen children. You can have no idea of the distress occasioned in this country by an epidemic of this nature, and among a people so little accustomed or prepared to take the needful precautions, or apply suitable remedies; but you may easily conceive, that such seasons of trial afford us Missionaries abundant and anxious employment, both for mind and body. Our time is almost entirely taken up with administering to the temporal and spiritual necessities of the poor patients and their afflicted families visiting them in their rude cabins, and supplying such medicines as are found useful, and as we have at command. In the performance of the last-mentioned duty, we were greatly assisted by Brother Herbrich, who has some knowledge of the art of medicine, and who was unwearied in his attentions to the sick, till he himself caught the infection, from having to attend and help to nurse two children with whom the cough had turned to a kind of typhus fever. For some days his illness assumed an alarming character, but, through the Lord's mercy, he gradually recovered his health and strength. Two of our own children were likewise great sufferers from the prevailing disorder, having been ill from November to the end of March, and the younger was more than once in imminent danger of his life. Both of them were, however, mercifully restored to us. Nor did our domestic anxieties terminate here. The sight of my dear wife became seriously affected, in consequence of the many anxious and sleepless nights she had to spend with her sick children, and, up to the present time, the remedies applied have not availed for the removal of the complaint. A medical practitioner, who has just established himself at Godhaab, encourages us

indeed, to hope, that this trying ailment will, by degrees, be cured. Yet our chief reliance is on the gracious aid of the good Physician of both soul and body. He will also, I trust, preserve to me the use of my own eyes, which, till lately, were never affected by weakness of any kind, but have suffered more or less, from the effects of the season of trial through which we have been passing. We would both gladly continue to serve our Master on this desolate coast, and we hope and believe, that He has still some work for us to do, among the natives of Greenland.

"In the progress of our spiritual labors, there was much to afford us encouragement. Notwithstanding the epidemic, and the unusually tempestuous weather, both church and school were diligently attended; and we were often both affected and cheered by observing the eager desire for edification and instruction manifested by young and old. At the celebration of the church-festivals of Christmas and Easter, we had the pleasure to see most of our people from the out-places present.

"Last winter we were able, for the first time, to keep school in a warm apartment, instead of the cold church which had to be used for this purpose in former years. Our kind British friends have materially aided this arrangement by the supply of coals, for which we are indebted to their generosity. Our school-children take as much pleasure as children in Europe, in sitting before a black board, and receiving lessons in reading, writing, and cyphering; and, in spite of the interruption occasioned by the hooping-cough, they have made good progress.

"It is only within the last few years, that they have been instructed in arithmetic, which has an evident tendency to improve their minds, small as is the practical use, to which they are able to turn this kind of knowledge. Meanwhile we are more than ever convinced, that their spiritual good must remain the chief object of all our endeavors. However enlightened their understandings might become, it would profit them little, were their hearts to remain uninfluenced by the love of Jesus, and the teachings of His blessed Spirit.

"I am writing to you amid many interruptions, occasioned by the various duties which must be attended to at the present busy season of the year. I have just had to lay down my pen, in order to meet Brother Richter on his return from a cruise of four days, along the coast, in search of drift-wood. Of this useful and necessary article, he has met with so small a quantity, that his boat has but half a lading; and it will be, therefore, necessary for us to send into the Fiorde, in order to gather, if possible, some brush-wood from its shores. For the last twelve years, we have been relieved from the necessity of doing this, owing to the abundant supply of drift-wood which we have providentially obtained. You are quite right in thinking, that the collecting of fuel for our stoves, and grass for our goats, constitutes no trifling addition to the work of various kinds which we must perform during the progress of our short summer, and of which the erection of a new wing to our Mission-house has, for the last four years, been not the least important feature. Not-

withstanding all our efforts, only two rooms in this new building are as yet habitable. It is well for us, that we are thus of necessity heavily burthened with secular occupations of every kind, our Missionary labors are in a great measure suspended, in consequence of the dispersion of our flock. In the winter months we have, however, abundant employment of the kind that is most consonant with our feelings. Often do I turn my eyes towards those frozen tracts surrounding the polar basin, which are said to be inhabited by several thousands of heathen, speaking the same language as the natives of Greenland or Labrador, and as often is my heart lifted up in prayer to the Lord, that the time may soon come, when they too may hear that they have a Saviour. Should the Lord be pleased to call us to convey to them these glad tidings, I trust we shall be found ready to obey the summons.

"I recollect once to have read, in a letter from Labrador, that the garden rhubarb thrives very well on that coast, having been introduced there from England. We should gladly attempt the cultivation of it, in this country, where it would prove not less acceptable and wholesome, than it has been to our Labrador Brethren. Do you think we could obtain some roots or seeds from England? Last year we had abundance of turnips, cabbages, and lettuce; but, at present, we have but a poor prospect of obtaining much garden produce.

"Our Greenlanders got through the winter without experiencing any serious want of the necessaries of life; their spring-provision has proved, however, far from abundant.

"You inquire about white bears. Here some of these animals are to be seen, but in Lichtenau and Fredericksthal I have seen a considerable number. The rein-deer hunt is often very productive to the Greenlanders; they are preparing to set out upon it, and, in the course of the summer, several thousands may, perhaps, be killed in this neighborhood alone. It is really melancholy to think of such slaughter, as only a portion of the animals killed can be turned to account for food.

"To our esteemed friends in England and Scotland, who have again so liberally ministered to our personal and domestic comforts, we beg to return our warmest thanks. May the Lord abundantly reward them!

"With a salutation to all the members of your Society, I remain,&c."

FROM BROTHER J. F. D. TIETZEN

"*Lichtenfels, July* 13*th*, 1839.

"Dear Brother,—The affectionate interest which so many Christian friends in Great Britain, as well as in other parts of Europe, take in our well-being, and in the prosperity of the Mission which we are appointed to serve, encourages and cheers us, at the same time it puts us to shame. On this bleak and inhospitable shore, we need such tokens of brotherly love; for, though the spirit may be willing, the flesh is often found to be very weak. Our Lord and

Master is, however, well acquainted with all our infirmities, and vouchsafes to us many a gracious experience of His presence and His help in time of need. Such a season of trial we had to pass through last winter, owing to the prevalence of the hooping-cough (a complaint which had never been known before in Greenland) among the members of our congregation. By means of this epidemic, which raged from November to February, and from whose attacks neither age nor sex was exempt, five adults and 15 children were called out of time into eternity. During this season of prevailing distress, we found the saying verified, that 'prayer is the offspring of need;' for, although the major part of our congregation were suffering severely from the disorder, the services at church, both on Sundays and on week-days, were as well attended, as if there had been no sickness to keep back a single individual. The dreadful coughing, which almost drowned the voice of the minister, was the only circumstance by which the real state of the case was betrayed. Our time, thoughts, and strength were, as you may suppose, much engrossed by the needful attentions to the sick and dying; and we cannot be too thankful to the Lord, for the gracious help and counsel which he afforded us, during this period of protracted and severe suffering. In temporals, our Greenlanders were well provided for, which proved a great alleviation to the distress otherwise prevailing.

"The autumn and winter were tempestuous, and the latter marked by heavy falls of snow. The lateness and inclemency of the spring have been very unfavorable to the gardens; so that our hopes of a good crop of vegetables are but slender.

"Our dear Brother and Sister Eberle are on the point of leaving us, and retiring from the service of the Mission. Brother Eberle's advanced age and increasing infirmities, and especially the complaint in his chest, from which he has been suffering for several years past, appear to render this a necessary step. Our best wishes and prayers, and our grateful remembrance of their faithful services, will follow himself and his dear wife into their retirement."

[From the "Periodical Accounts," &c.]

III. SURINAM.

REPORT OF BROTHER TREU'S VISIT TO THE PLANTATION IN THE UPPER DISTRICT OF THE NICKERIE, IN THE YEAR 1837.

THE proprietors of the plantations on the coast of the Upper Nickerie, a day's voyage north of Paramaribo, applied to us already, in 1835, during the visitation of Brother Curie, with a request, that Missionaries might be sent to instruct their negroes in Christianity. In this view, they proposed to build a spacious church and a residence in the centre of the district, so that the negroes of the

eighteen cotton estates, which extend nearly twenty miles along the coast, might attend Divine worship every week. A subscription for this purpose was opened, and met with great success.

Meanwhile a singular occurrence took place on one of the largest of these plantations. A fanatical negro, who had not uttered a word for two years, and had been confined in the hospital as a lunatic on that account, began to boast of Divine revelations, and to give himself out as a messenger from God, nay, even the Son of God himself. He pretended that, during his trance, he had emancipated the negroes in different lands, and was now come hither also, to free his countrymen from the yoke of slavery. By the connivance of his keepers, he soon gained a numerous body of followers, and was nightly resorted to by the negroes of the neighboring plantations, which opportunities he made use of, not only for spreading his tenets, but also for the indulgence of the grossest sensuality. At length, these nocturnal orgies coming to the knowledge of the proprietors, a judicial investigation was instituted, and the said Colin, with nine of his principal adherents, was lodged in prison at Paramaribo, where they, along with the other prisoners, attended Divine worship which we held within its walls. Colin, unhappily, was reduced by his excesses to such a state of bodily and mental exhaustion, as to be utterly incapable of any serious impressions. He died, a melancholy victim of his vices, before the sentence of the law, condemning him to death for his seditious conspiracy, could be carried into execution.

The Gospel found a readier access to the hearts of his fellow-convicts. They received the Word of life with joy, and repeatedly declared, that, had they heard it sooner, they should never have given heed to Colin's impostures. The Court had sentenced them to be flogged, and then to undergo some years' hard labor in the fortifications, and the former part of the sentence was to be inflicted on the plantation to which Colin had belonged. A wish was expressed, both by the Government and by the Society for the Propagation of Christianity amongst the Negroes, that a Missionary from our number might accompany the commission selected from the Supreme Council to superintend the execution of the punishment, and to address a word of exhortation to all the negroes on the coast, and thus commence the preaching of the Gospel in that quarter. It was also suggested, that we might avail ourselves of the opportunity to survey the coast, and fix upon a suitable site for the new Mission-establishment. This service falling upon me, I embarked, April 18th, in reliance on the Lord's gracious help, in the schooner Bieskebury, commanded by our friend Captain de Villeneuve. The whole crew, including the convicts and their escort of 35 soldiers, amounted to 56 persons. Having the wind and tide against us, it was evening before we reached the open sea; but then we made rapid way, and by ten o'clock the following morning cast anchor off Fort Coronie.

The Landdrost of the district, Mr. Färber, on hearing of our arrival, sent a note inviting me to his house; but, wishing to be near the prisoners till they had received their punishment, that I might

see them daily, I accepted the offer of Mr. Mackintosh to lodge with him on the plantation John. Next morning I rode over with him to Mr. Färber's, six and a half leagues distant from the fort, and made arrangements with him for visiting the different estates.

April 22d, the sentence of the law was executed; and on the following day, being Sunday, the first sermon was preached to the negroes on plantation John, with others from the neighborhood, about 150 in all. They paid great attention to what I told them of the counsel of God, concerning our salvation, and were delighted to find that a negro church was going to be built, and a teacher coming to reside among them. Some of them begged me to give them another discourse before I returned home, which I gladly promised to do. An old negro, who had formerly lived at Paramaribo for many years, without ever troubling himself about Divine worship, told me, that since he had been here, he had often wished for another opportunity of hearing God's word.

April 26th, the Commission proceeded to the Lower District, and, the prisoners being sent back to town, I set out to Mr. Färber's, on Hoope plantation. Early next morning he accompanied me to Potosie, where, the negroes being speedily assembled, I expounded to them the parable of the great supper, and exhorted them thankfully to embrace the invitation given them to come and sit down in the kingdom of God. These negroes, also, about 70 or 80 in number, unanimously expressed their readiness to receive Christian instruction.

On the 28th, P. M., I addressed Mr. Färber's own negroes from the words of our Saviour—"*Go ye into all the world*," *&c.* They listened attentively, and declared themselves to the same effect with the foregoing. The next day we went to Mooy, an estate on the other side of the fort. The road lies over a muscle-reef, which extends the whole length of the coast, and exhibits much diversity of scenery. I was especially struck with a long avenue of cocoa-trees, extending in three rows for upwards of a mile, all loaded with fruit, and yet being young trees, affording a delightful shade with their fine foliage. The remaining part of the road, planted with various sorts of fruit trees, led through luxuriant fields of bananas, maize, yams, &c., so that we seemed to be passing through a tropical garden.

Some 200 negroes had assembled by noon in the spacious cotton ware-houses at Mooy, besides which, several stewards came in with their negroes, as requested, from Perseverance and other plantations. It was, indeed, an inspiring sight to see such a multitude, by far the greater part of whom heard the Gospel, this day, for the first time in their lives. An aged woman shed tears of emotion when the singing began. The Lord enabled me to address them with a warm heart, inviting them to come to Jesus, the Friend of sinners; and they promised to obey the call which they had to-day received. A family who had been baptized many years ago in town, but had been removed hither by a sale, came up to welcome me, and expressed their lively joy on having the prospect of a teacher to live among them.

Sunday the 30th, we drove to Leasowes, where Mr. Mackintosh's domestic tutor had made the requisite preparations for a meeting. Mr. Rickets was likewise present with his negroes, from the adjoining plantation Novares, so that, altogether, there were about 250 persons, who paid great attention. As Colin had belonged to this estate, I took occasion to remark on the errors to which the mind is liable while enveloped in ignorance, and the necessity for that Christian instruction which they were soon to enjoy. The greater part of them really seemed to long for something higher and better. At the close of the meeting, I baptized the child of the sergeant stationed at Fort Coronie, at his pressing request, according to the English ritual.

May 1*st*, I preached to the negroes belonging to Maryshope and Bellevue estates, 250 in all, and met with the same encouragement. Great part of the Maryshope negroes were baptized ten years ago by the Romish priest, when on a visit here; but as they received no instruction, either before or after the rite, they are just as ignorant as any of the rest. He wished, indeed, at that time, to erect a church in this district for the benefit of the negroes, but this was objected to by the planters, who are most of them of Scottish extraction. It seems to have been a subsequent proposal of this kind, on the part of the Romish Clergy, which induced them to apply for a Missionary of our church.

May 2*d*, I preached at Sarah plantation to 150 negroes in the new and spacious hospital. Two of the nine who had been recently punished, but who, in consideration of some mitigating circumstances, had had the remainder of the sentence remitted, were also present on this occasion. When it was over, some of the younger negroes came to beg for spelling-books, that they might learn to read from the white children, as occasion offered.

May 3*d*, Mr. Ferrier, proprietor of Cadros and Park estates, whose negroes had attended the preaching at Mooy, invited me thither. He examined his little Creoles in my presence, and I was not a little astonished to find that several of them could already spell, and repeat the Lord's Prayer, and texts of Scripture. An elderly negro, who formerly lived at Paramaribo, and has now the care of the children, has brought them thus far by the help of a Negro-English spelling-book. Mr. Ferrier promised to send them to the school, as soon as a Missionary was stationed here.

Having now executed my commission, I returned to John, in order to wait there for the first opportunity to Paramaribo. May the 4th, being Ascension-day, I addressed a numerous assembly on the object and meaning of the several Church-festivals, and explained to them the blessings obtained for us by Christ's glorious ascension, and what is required of us, if we wish to gain admittance into His kingdom. In conclusion, I read to them the description which our Saviour gives of His coming again to judgment, *Matt.* xxv. 31–46, with which they appeared to be deeply impressed. On the following evenings, also, I discoursed with a number of negroes in my room, expounding to them portions of the Passion-History, and some of

our Lord's parables. Their eagerness for instruction was delightful, and I trust the Word of God will leave an abiding impression on their hearts.

Being still here on Sunday, May 7th, Mr. Mackintosh sent a message to his absent brother's plantation, the Leasowes, that all who wished to hear me once more before I left the coast, might come to the preaching. About 300 assembled, to whom I read the history of Cornelius the centurion, applying those parts of it which were most suitable to their circumstances. I concluded with giving them some account of our first negro Missions, and of several negro conversions, which seemed to produce a great impression. The Lord will, I confidently trust, carry on the work He has graciously begun for the salvation of many souls.

Next morning, at seven o'clock, I went on board a small schooner off Maryshope, with three other passengers. Both the wind and current being adverse to the return voyage, and vessels being almost always obliged to tack, it is generally a tedious passage; so that I was thankful to reach Paramaribo so early as the afternoon of the third day. My soul was penetrated with lively gratitude to the Lord, for the support and encouragement which He had vouchsafed me, in the execution of a charge which I had undertaken with much distrust and anxiety.

Though we cannot expect that all the 1,200 or 1,300 negroes, who, on this occasion, heard for the first time the message of peace, and expressed their desire for Christian instruction, will experience a thorough conversion of heart, there is, unquestionably, a most promising field opened in this district for our exertions, one that is ripe for the harvest, and invites the laborers to enter in. The most suitable place for our establishment seemed to me to present itself on the Bandaskine estate, near Fort Coronie, which belongs to Mr. Mackintosh. He has offered to secure to us the land required for the necessary buildings and a garden. The church will be adapted to accommodate the whole black population of this coast, computed at 1,700 souls. A large negro congregation may thus be established here, whose members will enjoy the privilege of public worship every Sunday, while the other plantations of the colony can be visited by a Missionary only once in a month or six weeks. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes!

Such a sudden introduction of Christianity among the population of an entire district has in it something peculiarly exciting, and even those persons who would have been too careless to be attracted by a gradual introduction of the Gospel, are now carried involuntarily along with the shoal into the wide net of the church. Many difficulties as to the individual care of souls will, however, be thus created, but it is the speediest way to bring the leaven of Gospel truth into contact with the mass of pagan darkness. The nature of Christ's kingdom implies a difference between national conversion to Christianity, and the spiritual conversion to Christ of all the individuals composing them; it is, as our Lord declares, like a net which gathers of every kind, both bad and good. And for the sake of

these, who obey the Saviour's call and the inward drawing of his Spirit, who form below the church within the church, but on the day of revelation shall be made manifest, it is well worth the while to prosecute the work with diligence, and to preach the Gospel to *every creature*. The Word of the Cross, will, we may humbly hope, prove a savor of life unto life to very many of these poor heathen, who have hitherto been sitting in the shadow of death.

As a full year must elapse before a church can be completed, even should the building be commenced immediately, both planters and negroes expressed a wish that frequent visits might meanwhile be paid to the latter, lest the resolutions formed, and the good impressions made, should be lost or forgotten. We also deem this highly desirable, and hope that no difficulties may prevent its being carried into effect.

We beg the esteemed Friends of our Missions, whose prayers afford us a support so valuable in the important work committed to our agency, occasionally to remember this new field in their intercessions before the Lord, that our labor in it may be so begun and carried on, as to conduce to His glory and the salvation of many souls, purchased, like our own, at the price of His most precious blood.

[From the "Periodical Accounts," &c.]

IV. SOUTH AFRICA.

The departure of Brother J. Adam Halter, which took place at Enon on the 3d of August, is a serious loss to the Cape Mission, and especially to the station which has enjoyed his faithful services for the long period of seventeen years. Our late Brother was in his fifty-fifth year at the time of his sudden removal, and had been twenty-six years engaged in Missionary labor, of which the eight first were spent on the coast of Labrador. It is a subject of pleasing reflection, that he was not only spared to take a prominent part in the establishment of the Mission among the Fingoes, but also to behold the dawn of what, we trust, may prove a day of returning temporal prosperity for the long and sorely tried congregation, with whom he had so faithfully shared joy and sorrow. Two letters from Brother Teutsch will be read with interest; the former containing his farewell testimony to the progress of the work of the Lord at Elim, the latter some very cheering details of the present state of Groenekloof, to the care of which station he has been recently appointed.

Brother Hallbeck's communications take, as usual, a wider range, and are full of important matter. The first gives a painfully interesting account of the sufferings and mortality occasioned, at Genadendal, by the measles—a disease of rare occurrence, but which, in the present instance, appears to have prevailed extensively and fa-

tally throughout the whole colony. The distress hereby occasioned, both among the Colonists and the Hottentots, our Brethren had done their utmost to relieve, and the Divine blessing had rested on their benevolent exertions. Provisions of all kinds had meanwhile fallen in price, owing to a large importation of foreign grain and other produce, and the very favorable state of the weather during the ploughing and sowing seasons, which encouraged the hope of a plentiful harvest.

EXTRACT OF LETTERS FROM BROTHER H. P. HALLBECK.

"*Genadendal, May 30th*, 1839.

"Dear Brother,—Since the date of my last letter, I have been so much engaged with local affairs, that I have hardly had a moment left for turning my attention to any thing else, and hence you have been left without any intelligence for more than seven weeks. I feel, therefore, truly thankful to our Saviour, that the season of trial and suffering through which we have been passing, and which will not be easily forgotten, is nearly at an end, and I gladly embrace the first opportunity to give you some particulars of it. I mentioned, in my last, the breaking out of the measles soon after Easter. This epidemic spread so universally among the inhabitants of our place, that there were hardly hands enough to attend the sick, and there were many houses in which ten and more were laid up at once. I know, for instance, of five families where eleven individuals, and of two, where thirteen, were attacked in the course of a fortnight; and, according to a calculation, which I made by making inquiry in every house and hut, no less than 1,250 individuals were taken ill within a month. The disease was generally of a mild character, yet a much greater number, particularly of children, have been carried off than I at first anticipated, and, to all human appearance, not a few by imprudence, or want of means on the part of those who had to nurse the patients. For several weeks, one or more corpses were buried almost every day; and, altogether, sixty-three persons, of whom one young woman and nine children were strangers, have finished their earthly course during this trying visitation. Of the remaining fifty-three, there were one married man, one married woman, one youth, three unmarried woman, and forty-seven children, mostly under two years. Comparing the number of deaths with the number of patients, and likewise with the result of a similar visitation in 1807, when, out of a population of 773, (a great proportion of whom had had the measles on a former occasion,) fifty-six departed, we have more reason for thanksgiving than for complaining; yet you will easily cemprehend, how much my mind has been harassed, it being my duty to attend the sick, and to assist every where with advice, medicine, and whatever was wanted for the nursing of the patients,—a charge which is evidently beyond the power of any one individual. On a review of the whole, I find, however, abundant reason to thank our Saviour for His gracious help, particularly, also, for the preservation of my own health, and that of my family. It was a fortunate

circumstance, that, in expectation of the epidemic, I had previously ordered such medicines as I knew to be required, else our stock would have been exhausted long ago. This and other expenses for the relief of the suffering poor have, however, completely exhausted our poor's cash; but our trust is in the Lord, that He will further supply the means for their support, which, in this year of scarcity and dearth, will be much wanted. Now that the epidemic has nearly ceased in our place, it spreads on the surrounding farms, and I have hourly calls from the neighbors, requesting advice and medicine, which I cannot refuse to attend to, knowing that the poor people, having lost all their horses, are really unable to seek assistance at a greater distance from home. It is, besides a service which I owe to them in common charity, and which tends to strengthen that bond of affection which happily subsists between many of them and ourselves. For several weeks we were obliged to close our schools, almost all the children being ill at once; but on the 29th of April, they were re-opened, since which time, in addition to other work, I have been obliged to supply Brother Nauhaus' place in the girls' school. On the 20th of May, being Whit-Monday, we had a solemn meeting for thanksgiving, and a love-feast with the school-children, when about 300 who had recovered from the measles attended, many being obliged to remain at home, on account of the very unfavorable state of the weather.

"We feel truly thankful, and even astonished, at the quiet promising course of our numerous congregations. It is long since any thing of an unpleasant nature happened, or we had any dispute or disagreement to settle. Our meetings at church and our schools are, at present, thinly attended; but this cannot be otherwise during the harvest season, particularly in such a year of scarcity; these, however, who are not too far off come hither on a Sunday, and we continue to come to the assistance of others who are at a distance. by holding Divine service at Kopjes-kasteel, and also at the house of one of the neighboring farmers, Christopher Groenewald, who himself earnestly applied for this favor. Last month a new marriage law for this colony was promulgated, contained in an order of her Majesty in council of the 7th of Sept., by which, as appears to me, every thing that we could wish is granted. Marriages can now be legally solemnized by any of our ordained Missionaries, and provisions are made, whereby all marriages hitherto solemnized by us are pronounced legal, and also such married people as have intermarried without any form or solemnity, have it in their power, by a certain declaration, to obtain for their children all the rights of legitimate heirs, if such a declaration be signed and transmitted to Government, within a year after the promulgation of the order. But, then, certain registers must be kept, and duplicates of every entry transmitted to Government,—a duty which will be found difficult by some of our Brethren, who cannot write English. I have therefore been obliged to send round the necessary forms of the required reports, and also of the letter which must accompany the transmission of papers, &c.

"The accounts from Koksbosch, on the Zitzikamma, continue to be encouraging. Brother Halter writes on the 5th of May:—'Thirty-three Fingoes and twenty-five apprentices have been admitted as inhabitants of our little settlement, in the course of last month, and our present number is 78. It is truly encouraging to witness the hunger and thirst of the people after the word of God. Every Sunday we have a great concourse from the whole neighborhood,—on Palm-Sunday as many as 300,—viz. 250 Fingoes, and 50 of the other tribes. Of course we are obliged to keep Divine service in the open air, and we wish, therefore, without loss of time, to erect a building which may serve, at first, both as church and school. The Sunday school is usually attended by 80 children, and the Fingo Capt. Mangaba, who has learnt his letters, takes pleasure in assisting Brother Küster in teaching the children. Our temporary dwelling-house, 30 feet by 13, is nearly finished. The Lord has so blessed our garden, that we have already vegetables for our table, such as salad, turnips, beans, and carrots; and potatoes begin to ripen. In short, this place appears in every respect to be a promising field. May our Lord grant us, who are called to labor here, faithfulness, grace, and wisdom, always to act according to His mind.'

"After long waiting, I was so fortunate to receive, a few days ago, the 50 English Bibles, and 200 English Testaments, kindly supplied by the British und Foreign Bible Society, to whom I beg to present my heartfelt thanks. Next week our evening schools, which have been necessarily dropped on account of the measles, will be re-opened, and then I hope that many of our young people will be glad to procure a New Testament or Bible for their own private use, for which I think it right that they ought to pay more or less, according to their circumstances, of which I will in due time inform the Secretary of the Society."

"*July* 22*d*, 1839.

"Brother Küster will probably have informed you of his safe arrival in Cape-Town, on the 28th of June, after a twelve weeks' passage, which proved any thing but comfortable. After a short stay in town, he reached this place on the 8th instant, and has taken up his quarters in our seminary, or what you please to call our 'school for training assistants.' It was rather remarkable that he should arrive the very day after the marriage of Ezekiel Pfeiffer, who had previously lived with the pupils, and who still attends to them during certain hours of the evening. The Brethren Küster, Franke, and myself, take about an equal share in their instruction; Brother Schopman likewise devotes to their service a few hours in the week; but the first-mentioned, living in the same house, and sleeping in an apartment adjoining their dormitory, has the best opportunity, to accustom them to order and regularity, and to watch over their morals; and I am happy to find, that he has entered upon his duties with all his heart.

"I must now endeavor to give you some account of the occurrences of the last two months, which have been neither few nor unimportant, nor yet of an unmixed character. As regards our Mis-

sionary labor generally, we continue to enjoy the confidence and good-will of our rulers; but a certain party, who suffer in consequence of the emancipation of the slaves, because they can no more monopolize their labor, have been very busy of late, in spreading all manner of unfounded rumors, regarding the flocking together of the apprentices to the Missionary stations, and their disorderly manner of life,—by which government have been much annoyed. The returns which I was, in consequence, called upon to make, and which were lately laid upon the table of our legislative council, have satisfied the Governor, as he was pleased publicly to state, in his opening speech to the council. Many of the slave owners were, however, not yet satisfied, and it was probably in consequence thereof, and at the express request of the Governor, that one of the judges, on his late circuit through the colony, called both here and at Elim; and I am happy to say, that he was fully convinced of the falsehood of the rumors in circulation, and will, no doubt give a good account of us at head-quarters. The facts which he can state, are indeed, more unfavorable to the cause of the clamorous malcontents than my returns; but I am aware, that there is no silencing prejudiced and interested men, either by arguments or facts. Meanwhile we are glad to find, that notwithstanding the outcry about the want of laborers, and the heavy losses by the horse-sickness, our neighbors have sown fully as much, and probably more, than in any preceding year, and that there are those amongst them, who become more and more attached to us, and even begin to express a wish to partake of the Holy Communion with us. The measles have ceased here for some time; but on many of the adjacent farms, there are still serious, and even fatal cases, and I have, therefore, daily calls for advice and medicine. It remains, indeed, a sickly season, and just now, the influenza prevails here and throughout the colony, with various other diseases, which are very trying to the poor, as they are thereby prevented from earning their daily bread by the labor of their hands. We have, in consequence, had more deaths than usual, and several elderly people have been called into eternal rest, and among others Johannes Rockert, probably the oldest man in our place, who for many years has been an ornament of our congregation, and highly respected by all who knew him, both here and in the neighborhood. Very different, alas! was the end of a young person, who after being dismissed from this place, was admitted again on trial, some time ago. Exhausted by a complication of diseases, she expired last week, confessing to an acquaintance, a few hours before her end, that she had lately had a child, which she had made away with and buried; and this, on examination by the Magistrate, to whom I felt it my duty to report the circumstance, was found to be true. You may easily conceive what where our feelings, and those of every faithful member of the congregation, on hearing of this tragical event, the first of the kind that has occurred here. It is, however, some consolation to know, that the dreadful deed was executed without the knowledge of any other individual, and perhaps while the unfortunate woman was in a state of delirium. At least,

we would charitably hope so, as she was greatly reduced by disease at the time, and spoke very incoherently, even about common matters. With the exception of this distressing interruption, the state of our congregation in general has afforded us pleasure and satisfaction, and this was particularly the case at the general speaking in the first week of this month, when 38 persons became candidates for baptism, 8 adults were baptized, 5 received into the congregation, and 20 were present as spectators at the Holy Communion. Though the numbers in our schools are not quite so large as last year about this time, owing to the absence of some, and the illness or delicate state of health of other children, yet the average daily attendance amounts to 300, and various improvements have of late been introduced into this branch of our labor also, with regard to the general introduction of the English language, which, under the blessing of our Saviour, will in due time produce their fruits. The assistants passed a very creditable examination, when Brother Küster was lately introduced as their teacher, and most of the Missionaries who were present, were not a little astonished, when they found, that the various questions in Christian doctrine, Grammar, Geography, &c., were answered, almost as readily in the English as in the Dutch language, and that it was quite the same to them, in what language I addressed them. Ezekiel Pfeiffer has found a suitable help-mate in Martha Cloete, who has been long in the service of our Mission-family, and who, I trust, will be able to lend her assistance in the schools in various ways. In addition to Kasteel and Matjesgat, a third preaching-place was opened a fortnight ago, on the property of an English gentleman. I have also of late had frequent opportunities of saying a word in season, when desired to visit the sick in our neighborhood, and at a funeral I was expressly invited to hold divine service to a great concourse of people.

"Since the date of my last, we have had the pleasure to welcome among us, Brother and Sister Lemmertz, who have undertaken the management of our house-keeping and garden; Brother Lemmertz also lending his assistance in the girls' school, (with Gustava, and Sister Franke, myself, and others,) for several hours in the week. Brother Stein has, at the same time, retired from active service, and expects to return to Europe next year.

"The measles have also reached the Leper-institution, where several patients have been carried off within the last two or three weeks. Sister Fritsch, I am happy to find, enjoys better health than usual. I was there at the beginning of this month, and was, on the whole, much pleased with my visit.

"At Elim, Brother and Sister Luttring have had the grief to part with a son of three and a half years old, who died about the middle of June, of a fever, probably brought on by the measles. Brother and Sister Nauhaus have experienced a similar trial in the Zitzikamma. On May 29th, they arrived there, with the Sisters Rudolph and Lesser, and their infant daughter, Charlotte Gustava, after a te-

dious and unpleasant journey. The child was then already so ill that but faint hopes of its recovery were entertained, and, on the 16th of June, it breathed its last, when the parents were alone at the station, their fellow-laborers having proceeded to Enon a few days before.

"At the last-mentioned place, the Brethren Bonatz and A. Küster were married on the 1st of July; and another highly pleasing piece of intelligence of a different nature has also, at last, reached us from the banks of the Witte river—viz., that on the 21st of May, after heavy rains in the neighborhood, the inhabitants of Enon were again favored to hear the almost forgotten sound of a rapid mountain-torrent; and that, under the encouraging prospect of being enabled to irrigate their gardens and fields, they are now busily preparing for sowing and planting, as soon as the season admits of it. The joy at this happy change of circumstances is, however, a good deal damped by a trial of another kind. Brother Halter, while on the Zitzikamma, soon after the arrival of Brother and Sister Nauhaus, was attacked by fits of apoplexy or paralysis, and therefore returned to Enon sooner than was intended, in the company of Brother Küster, in order to obtain medical advice at Uitenhage. But he appears to have derived no benefit from the prescribed means, and the last letters from Enon mention, that his left side is quite lamed, his speech indistinct, and his mental powers also affected; nay, that he is so weak, that he is not expected to survive. To add to the distress hereby occasioned, Sister Halter, in the hurry of coming to his assistance, when he once fell out of his bed, so hurt one of her hands, that she can afford no help, and a surgeon has now to be in attendance on her. Under these circumstances, Brother and Sister Stoltz remain for the present at Enon, and Brother and Sister Genth at Shiloh; and, situated as we are, we hardly know what to do, if it should please the Lord, as appears likely, to remove Brother Halter by death, or leave him in the helpless state in which he now is.

"The measles had nearly subsided at Enon, when the last letters came away, and there had been only a few deaths. They had broken out at Koksbosch about the middle of June, and have probably, ere this time, reached Shiloh, though I have no information on the subject, having received no letters from that station since Brother Bonatz left, in the beginning of May.

"I am thankful to say, that as much buchu as our Hottentots can gather is already bespoke by a merchant at Cape-town. It will be a great help to the poorer class, and to those who are unfit for heavy work in these times of scarcity. The Lord who has helped them through thus far, will not leave nor forsake them, if they do but put their trust in Him. In our neighborhood the weather, during the ploughing season, has been more favorable than almost any one can recollect, and many of our pious neighbors are quite ashamed of their murmuring and want of confidence. During the prevalence of the horse-sickness, a few months ago, they could not look into futurity without a feeling of despair. If the weather contiues equally

favorable a couple of months longer the prices of provisions will become more moderate, and the present distress be relieved.

"Brother Bonatz's little book for the Tambookie children is printed off, and will probably soon be in use. As soon as I have an opportunity, I shall have to send a few copies, through your hands, for the Continent and North America."

"*August 8th*, 1839.

"The confidence of our people in the help of an Almighty Saviour has not been put to shame. Things begin, already, to wear a better aspect than any one would have expected. By the importation of grain from other countries, the price of corn is considerably lowered; the farmers, particularly in our neighborhood, have been able to sow more grain than usual, so that, with the blessing of God, the next harvest may be followed by a season of abundance. Meanwhile, all those around us who can work are not without employ, though, I am sorry to say, the rate of wages bears no proportion to the present price of the necessaries of life.

"On the 27th and 28th ult., I visited Kopjes-kasteel, where the number of hearers has increased so much, that it appears we must soon look out for a larger place of worship. I counted, besides a great number of children, about 70 adults. Four wagons, crowded with people, besides a company in a cart, and a great many on foot and on horseback, from the adjacent farms, attended the Sunday meetings; and I hope to witness a similar scene on the 11th instant, when I am going to hold Divine service with Christopher Groenewald at Matjesgat,"

FROM BROTHER L. TEUTSCH.

"*Elim, April 18th*, 1839.

"Dear Brother,—This being in all probability the last letter which I shall have the pleasure of addressing you from this place, I must not forego the opportunity of giving you a kind of concluding report of the flourishing congregation to which, for several years, I have been favored to minister. That I shall leave Elim with regret, I need not tell you; nevertheless, I feel a comfortable assurance, that the Lord will accept my feeble services, at the station to which I am called, and a hope, that the change may prove beneficial to the health of my dear wife, about whom, of late, I have been very anxious. I am, meanwhile, thankful to be able to inform you, that a visit which she paid at Genadendal, about Easter, has tended materially to recruit her strength and spirits.

"You will be interested to learn, that since the commencement of the present year, our congregation has increased considerably in number. Not fewer than 90 apprentices and 15 Hottentots have come to us on trial, and many more have signified their wish to have their names entered on our books as soon as possible. One consequence of this influx is the erection of new houses, and the laying

out of additional streets, whereby our settlement will gain materially both in extent and appearance. Another and very pleasing effect is an increase in the number of children who attend our school, and for whose accommodation it will soon be found needful to enlarge the school-house. We have lately established a Sunday-school, chiefly for the benefit of the elder children, who have ceased to frequent the day-school, but are desirous to retain in mind and memory what they have already learnt. This institution has produced a great eagerness to learn among the inhabitants of our place generally, and many seem disposed to profit by the advantages it holds out. A collateral benefit which it confers on the whole community is, its direct tendency to promote the due observance, and prevent the desecration of the Lord's day.

"The individual speaking with the different classes of our congregation, has of late, been productive of much encouragement to us. Before Easter, Brother and Sister Meyer conversed with nearly all the members of our flock, and had the pleasure to perceive, that not a few of the enfranchised slaves possessed a considerable knowledge and understanding of the Word of God, and were truly desirous to turn to the best account the civil liberty they now enjoy. Thirteen persons, chiefly of this interesting class, were admitted as candidates for baptism,—two were approved for the reception of that rite, and seven for admission to the Lord's Supper. The Passion-week and Easter were seasons of distinguished blessing, and, though crowds attended the various public services, the greatest order and propriety of conduct were observable. The spiritual course of our flock is, on the whole, encouraging; the walk and conversation of its members, generally, afford satisfactory evidence that the Spirit of God bears the rule among them, and, though cases of open transgression are not altogether wanting, it is manifest, that they are opposed to the spirit of the congregation.

"In their temporal circumstances our people have had much to endure. The times have been and are still very hard, and provisions of all kinds excessively high in price. A muid (three bushels) of wheat cost twenty-nine dollars, and meat of every kind was scarcely to be procured. Thus far our people have not suffered actual want, having had for their maintenance the gains of the last harvest; but when these are expended, they will be reduced to great distress. We have, therefore, as a measure of precaution, purchased a quantity of barley, that we may have it in our power to assist the most needy. To add to the prevailing distress, nearly all the horses belonging to Elim, 447 in number, have died of the prevailing distemper. This epidemic has been almost universal throughout the colony, and many think it has been occasioned by the unwholesomeness of the grass on which the poor animals have been pastured. So much is certain, that horses which have been kept in the stable and foddered, have mostly escaped. Of our own which were thus brought under shelter, and fed on hay, only two nevertheless were saved,—the remaining ten having probably been

infected with the disease before we took them out of the field. Our people use their horses chiefly for the transport of grain, which they earn while in service with the farmers; now that they have none, they are obliged to carry it on their backs, which causes great inconvenience and suffering, especially to the old and feeble. The prospect, at present, is certainly dark, but our trust is in the Lord. At the individual speaking, previous to the Passion-week, many of the sufferers expressed themselves in a truly edifying manner, in reference to this pestilence. One said—'I do not look upon the horse-sickness as a judgment from God, but as a token of His love. He chastens us, that He may keep us awake, that we may not be lost through slumbering and insensibility.' Another observed—'When the first of my horses died, I was very much vexed, for it was my best; but when the last was gone, I thought to myself—The Lord has taken them, and He may take me too, if He pleases. I must not murmur. He is the Maker of all things, and He has a right to do what He pleases with all His creatures.'

"It is in part owing to the want of horses, that our removal to Groenekloof is delayed, oxen being every where in the greatest request, as may readily be supposed. Yet we hope, in due season, to find the means of conveyance."

"*Groenekloof, July 24th.*

"I am thankful to say, that, before we left Elim on the 15th of May, nearly all the members of the congregation who had been attacked by the measles had recovered. Only two children had departed this life. On the 17th, we took leave of the little flock at Hout-kloof, and the following day reached Genadendal. Here we remained over Whit-Sunday, and, on the 24th of May, continued our journey to this place, where we met with a cordial welcome from our fellow-laborers and the Hottentot congregation. On the 2d of June, I preached here for the first time, and felt much enlargement of spirit, while testifying of the love of Jesus to those whom I was favored to address.

"On the 11th of June, Brother and Sister Lemmertz set out for Genadendal, and my dear wife and myself had to enter fully into the sphere of operation assigned to us One of our first employments was, to speak individually with all the members of the congregation, —an important duty, and a very convenient and agreeable means of becoming acquainted both with their persons and characters. We found, as usual, two classes among them,—one consisting of such as know and love the Saviour, with whom it was a real pleasure to converse; the other, of such as are yet strangers to Him, and who serve to remind us how much we have still to do. It shall, meanwhile, be our pleasure, through His grace, to lead to Him the work of His hands. At the conference following, eight persons were appointed for holy baptism, eleven young people for reception into the congregation, and four adults for re-admission. The prayer-day, on the 23d of June, the celebration of which was combined with that of the children's festival, was a time of peculiar refreshment from the presence of the Lord. On this occasion we were powerfully reminded of our

Lord's saying in John iv. 37, 38, for we were conscious that we were reaping where others had sowed. Our first Holy Communion with this flock, on the 30th of June, was likewise a season of blessing, which we shall not soon forget.

"As both yourself and our English friends take particular interest in the work of education, I will mention a few particulars respecting the schools at this place. The boys' school is held by Brother Lehman, who bestows much pains upon it; but, owing to the practice which prevails among the parents, of keeping back their children too frequently for the sake of their services in the field, he has to contend with many difficulties and discouragements. To supply the deficiency hereby occasioned, Brother Lehman has begun to keep school on four evenings in the week, and likewise on Sunday afternoon, and a good many attend at these times, who are not in the habit of frequenting the day-school. Some single women also receive instruction on Sundays from Sister Lehman, who has reason to be satisfied with their attention and progress.

"Brother Christensen has undertaken the charge of the girls' school with the assistance of a faithful Hottentot Sister. About 60 girls attend it daily. The infant-school is under my own direction, and affords me much pleasure. As my chest is too weak to allow of my exerting my voice for any considerable time together, I am truly thankful for the willing services of Dorothy Abraham, formerly employed by Sister Lemmertz, who has an excellent manner with the children, and seems to have won their confidence. The number of little ones who attend amounts to 90, of whom 30 are taught in classes, for about half an hour at a time. The readers I instruct myself; those who are learning their letters form two other divisions, under the care of my wife and Sister Christensen. Sister De Fries, meanwhile, has a sewing-school four mornings in the week, with about twelve girls. The readiness with which I seemed to make the acquaintance of the infants committed to my charge, struck me very deeply; after a few days' intercourse, perfect familiarity seemed established between us.

"The services at church are, on the whole, well attended; but here we seldom see any of the neighboring farmers or settlers worshipping with us; very different was the case at Elim.

"The circumstances of the emigrant farmers appear, from the public papers, to be improving. They are said to have defeated Dingaan, and to have compelled him to a treaty, which has left them in possession of a considerable tract near Port-Natal. Here they are reported to be building a town, to be called Petermauritzberg, in honor of their deceased leaders, Peter Retief and Mauritz. They have a governing council, to whom their present commander, Pretorius is responsible. Many more of the colonists are crossing the frontier, with the intention of joining them; and there seems to be a likelihood of their becoming sufficiently numerous and powerful to bid defiance to Dingaan and the Zodas. What will be the issue of these proceedings it is impossible to foresee. May the Lord direct all for the good of His own name."

FROM BROTHER J. F. HOFFMAN.

"*Enon, August 7th,* 1839.

"DEAR BROTHER,—The intelligence I have to communicate to you will, I am assured, cause you much sorrow. It has pleased the Lord to make a serious breach in our ranks, by the translation to his rest of a tried and faithful fellow-servant, our dear Brother J. Adam Halter, who departed this life on the 3d instant, at the age of 54 years and six months. In the midst of his active labors among the Fingoes on the Zitzikamma, he experienced a kind of apoplectic (paralytic?) seizure, which lamed his left side, and greatly enfeebled his mental powers. As soon as it was found practicable, he was conveyed hither for medical advice; but his weakness increased so perceptibly, that we had soon to give up all hopes of his recovery. His removal has affected us deeply, and we can do no other than fervently implore the Lord, that He would strengthen us who remain for the discharge of the duties committed to us, and soon send us the help which we so greatly need. The widow of our departed Brother appears to be graciously supported under her severe and unexpected bereavement.

"We have lately had a blessed celebration of the Easter-festival, and have reason to believe, that a salutary impression has been made on the hearts of many who attend the several services.

"In the course of the last few days, our Hottentots have undertaken and performed a very needful piece of work. On the 21st of May, after a succession of heavy rains, we had the joy to see the Witte river once more flowing,—a sight which had not met our eyes for a period of full two years. The old watercourse having been ruined, it was hereupon deemed necessary to construct a new one, and our people were very ready to perform the required labor. As they were, however, too poor to work gratuitously, for the majority of them had really nothing to subsist upon, we engaged to pay them for their services, at a rate which, however moderate, was nevertheless sufficient to enable them to provide the necessaries of life. The generous gift of our kind friend at Bristol, I need not observe, proved, on this occasion, as on others, the greatest help to us. It also enabled us to relieve the wants of the most indigent and distressed during the prevalence of the measles among the inhabitants of this place. Thus far, therefore, the Lord hath helped us."

[From the "Periodical Accounts," &c.]

V. WEST INDIES.

BY letters, which have just come to hand, from Antigua, we regret to learn, that several of our Missionary Brethren and Sisters in that island have been seriously indisposed. Brother and Sister Baum and Brother James Heath have experienced severe attacks of the prevailing yellow fever, from which, however, by the Lord's mercy, they

were nearly recovered. Brother Miller, for some time past, has been in a rather delicate state of health. Under these circumstances, the arrival of Brethren and Sisters Titterington from England, Rauch from North America, and Coates from Tobago, proved a very acceptable reinforcement. The chapel-school at Wilcox-bay was already so far advanced towards completion, that Divine service could be held in it, and arrangements made for attaching to it, as a permanent outstation, several hundred members of the St. John's congregation, inhabiting the district of Popeshead. A letter from Sister Morrish, containing some particulars of the opening of the enlarged schoolhouse at Newfield, the departure of Brother Morrish and herself from Antigua, and their tedious and dangerous voyage from that island to Tobago, was intended for insertion, but must be reserved for the next Number.

Brother Zorn gives a satisfactory account of the progress of the Mission in Jamaica, and the manner in which the first anniversary of the festival of entire freedom was celebrated at our various stations. In St. Kitts, the necessity of providing a larger and more commodious place of worship for the congregation at Basseterre has become so obvious and so urgent, that leave has been at length given for its erection by the Directors of our Missions. The liberal aid of our brethren and friends, towards the accomplishment of this long-desired undertaking is earnestly solicited.

I. JAMAICA.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BROTHER JACOB ZORN.

"*Fairfield, August* 13*th*, 1839.

"Dear Brother,—Since I wrote to you last, the first anniversary of the memorable day of freedom, the 1st of August has passed, and has been spent, in our congregations, with the sobriety of a Sabbath. This was owing, in part, I doubt not, to the exhortations they received to spend the day as one of religious thanksgiving according to our governor's proclamation; but chiefly, I am persuaded, to the dissemination among them of the doctrines of the 'Prince of Peace.' Every where, as far as my observation goes, the people are again cheerfully at work, and, in a few years, I trust, that even the temporal prosperity of the island will be much increased.

"After the public services, with a congregation that twice filled our chapel and attached school-room, we had a public meeting of the 'Fairfield Temperance Society,' the members of which pledge themselves, 'to abstain from the use of spiritual liquors as a drink.' Wine and malt are too expensive in this colony to lead to any fear, that intemperate habits will be formed on their occasional use. As a specimen of the tone and temper of our Soeiety, let me copy our first brief report.

"'God be praised! the good effects of temperance on the human frame have induced some, and that love of our neighbor which led

Paul to say—'If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth,' has constrained others, to unite in forming this Temperance Society. Its members return humble thanks to God, that the principles of this Society became known to them at a period, when the great change in the condition of the laboring population, presenting new temptations, appeared to require such a bulwark against intemperance. Though the laboring classes of this island, as a body, cannot be charged with intemperate habits, there is no knowing but that such habits might have been produced, especially as, in several quarters of the island, complaints have been made of the great increase of intemperance since the emancipation. It is cheering, that no fewer than 446 persons belonging to Fairfield congregation, 286 males and 160 females have signed the pledge; and still more cheering, that among these, though beset with temptations and ridicule, only one person has violated it. We trust many more will join this Society, convinced as we are, by our own experience, that abstinence from spirituous liquors is good for body and soul. Without exception, the members of this Society, who formerly took an occasional glass, testify to their improved appetite, health and strength since they discontinued the use of rum, and also that their minds are clearer and more lively when they engage in spiritual duties. It has been objected to some Temperance Societies, that they place their influence and efforts too high, and expect results which no human agency can produce. We anticipate no such results. We disdain all idea of merit or righteousness, any distinction in the sight of God or man, on account of being members of this Society. We have joined it as a duty to ourselves and to our neighbors, but boast of nothing but the cross of Christ.' Thus far the report. On this occasion, a number of our people expressed their views with so much good sense, and with so much variety, as agreeably to disappoint me.

"If I 'weep with you who weep,' you will no doubt 'rejoice with me who rejoice,' that it has pleased our Lord to restore my dear wife's health and strength, after a painful indisposition of three months. Last Friday, we returned hither, after an excursion to the sea-side, for the benefit of her health; and last Sunday she was again able to take her customary share of duty. Sister Collis has been of essential service to us, since Sister Zorn's confinement, and consequent indisposition.

"I know not whether I mentioned the death of Brother and Sister Robbin's youngest child, James, on the 7th ult. Since then I have not yet seen the afflicted parents. Brother Elliot is just recovering from a sharp attack of bilious fever; Sister Kochte has been much improved in health. Brother and Sister George Heath and infant daughter reached Black River in safety on August 1st, and were welcomed in our Mission-Conference on the 7th. They are to reside with us at Fairfield, and Brother and Sister Buchner go to assist at New-Carmel for the present."

FROM BROTHER W. S. BLANDFORD.

"*Fairfield, August 29th*, 1839.

"DEAR BROTHER,—We have many encouragements here, in Jamaica, to keep us from being 'weary in well-doing.' The chapels are crowded, and large numbers have to stand without. When two Brethren are at home, we have two congregations,—one in the chapel, and the other under the canopy of Heaven. The people seat themselves in primitive simplicity on the grass, the men and women on either side, and the preacher stands on a rock, about five feet high, under the shade of a large fig-tree. The blessing of the Lord evidently rests upon the labors of His servants, for numbers come from distant places, inquiring, 'What must I do to be saved?' The school is very well attended; we have 140 names on the attendance-book. On the 15th, they were invited to a love-feast; they came very clean in their persons, and their sable faces indicated that they were very happy. They enjoyed their cake and lemonade in the highest degree. One fine little boy said—'Massa, de cake and de drink quite sweet to my toot" (tooth.) Our school numbers 140 scholars, 82 boys and 58 girls, many of whom can read, write, and cipher.

"Brother Zorn has informed you of the safe arrival of Brother and Sister George Heath, and there being stationed here for the present. On the 19th, Brother Prince and his family descended to the Savannah. They have taken up their residence in the school-house. A ride of 20 miles every other Sunday, will now be at an end. The powerful rays of the sun have frequently brought the skin off my face, going to and returning from that station. Brother Vines is now at Bethany assisting Brother Scholefield. He is in the enjoyment of good health; and, for the continuance of this blessing to ourselves, we are truly thankful. We suffer much, at the present time, for want of water, having had no heavy rain for a long period. May the Lord soon send the desired supply, and replenish our exhausted cisterns."

2. ST. KITTS.

FROM BROTHER P. RICKSECKER.

"*Basseterre, August 31st*, 1839.

"DEAR BROTHER,—We are very thankful for the articles sent us for the use of our schools. The anthems collected, and partly composed, by your worthy father, are, indeed, a most welcome treat to myself and my nephew, and the anthem, '*Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings,*' *&c.*, shall soon be sounded forth by the rising generation of St. Kitts. The present of a kind Christian friend is particularly valuable to us, and it will be very acceptable to our promising flock of children, in whose name we desire to render our hearty thanks to the worthy donor.

"Our estates' schools in Basseterre district are discontinued for

want of proper teachers, except one at Goldenrock; and the parents are more inclined to send their children here, having confidence in us. It was a noble effort of our former Missionaries to begin schools on the estates, and the Lord did not withhold His blessing from it; nevertheless it was but a beginning of good things, for too often was the usefulness of these institutions thwarted by the unfaithfulness of teachers. At present, I think the parents are right in sending the children to us, since we have competent teachers here. In our school in town we have about 400 names on the book, and, on an average, there are about 300 scholars in daily attendance. The schools at Bethesda, Bethel, and Brodersens are also on the increase.

"A few days previous to August 1st, our Lieutenant-Governor gave us a call, and made inquiries concerning our school, which he expressed a desire to see. This gave us occasion to invite him to a love-feast, which we proposed to give to our day-scholars on the 2d of August. Expecting the Governor, we hastily made some preparations, and invited some friends, among whom, were present the Wesleyan minister and school-teacher, and our friend Mr. M'Mahon. His Excellency being indisposed, was unable to attend, but sent us a donation. After singing, prayer, and a short address, a number of the scholars recited portions of Scripture and hymns; some anthems were then sung, accompanied by a pianoforte, during which the copy-books and needle-work of the scholars were exhibited. The service was concluded with prayer, by the Rev. B. Cadman, Wesleyan Missionary. This was a happy day for the children, teachers, and visitors, and the latter were much pleased with the performance and orderly conduct of the children, of whom above 300 were present.

"That our congregation in town falls considerably short of the number of souls reported as under our care in former years may be ascribed partly to the emigration to Demerara and Trinidad, of a number of our young people; and partly to the want of a spacious place of worship, which continues to keep away many, who would otherwise join our church, and even contribute to the support of the Mission. Our chapel and school-house are on Sundays crowded to excess; and though we have an open shed, covered with rough boards, added to the chapel, *that* is also crowded. In former times, many of our people were able to attend divine service only every fourth Sunday. *Then* there was room enough; but now, when they can come regularly, and are urged so to do, they find no room; they therefore either crowd in, to the inconvenience of all, or leave the place. Hence our joy in seeing the people come to our church is mingled with grief, at the want of accommodation. Our congregation being divided, the meetings lose their solemnity, and it is more fatiguing to the Missionaries, to hold one service in our crowded school-room, than two sermons in a church. When we hear of new stations and chapels built, we cannot but feel our wants the more keenly; and whilst we obey the directions of our elders, we freely lay our distress before them, fearing lest the Lord may call us unprofitable servants, who let this, our day of in-gathering, carelessly pass away. Besides this, the state of our chapel becomes worse every

day, its roof leaks more and more, and very soon will afford us no shelter.

"The 1st of August was celebrated at all our stations; the Wesleyan chapel was opened, and in the school-house of the established church, service was performed. Our chapel, shed, and school-room were crowded with hearers, and in the evening we concluded the day with a singing meeting. On the 18th, we had a festival day with the single women and girls, and above 200 were present. Our aim was to impress on their minds the Christian duties of a single life. On the 1st of September, the unmarried men and boys had a similar festival, 166 being present: it was a pleasing sight, to see them with cheerful countenances and decently dressed, presenting themselves before the Lord, and promising to serve Him. I wish you had been here to see the number of people; church, shed and school, being all filled, while many had to stand, and others to sit outside in groups, in different parts of our yard."

3. BARBADOES.

FROM BROTHER J. ELLIS.

"*Bridgetown, July 22d*, 1839.

"Dear Brother,—Our newly-arrived couple, Brother and Sister Kiergaard continue in good health. They have been stationed at Sharon, and Brother Humberstone has removed to Bridgetown, where he will find abundant employment, partly in the service of this congregation, and for the present, partly, and perhaps chiefly, at Mount Wilton. Our prospects there are very cheering. The auditories on Sundays are very numerous, and an earnest desire for instruction in the written word is manifest. We hope, that the seed sown there will fall on good ground.

"Our hearers as well as members are also on the increase in Bridgetown, and we have good reason to believe, that there are many, who are not only hearers of the word, but also doers of it. At Sharon, the numbers, to all appearance, have been but little diminished by the opening of the chapel at Clifton Hill.

"At Mount Tabor, the Sunday auditories continue to be numerous, though comparatively few seek for church-fellowship.

"You know somewhat of our family afflictions, including the bereavement we have sustained by the departure of our second daughter, aged fourteen, at Fulneck school. Not to be able to be present with her in her sickness and last hours, was, to her dear mother and myself, a trial of no ordinary character. Her parting words when we left Fulneck, in 1837, are accompanied by strong emotions, as often as they recur to our minds. She said, and her words were accompanied by the fast-falling tear, 'I shall never see you again in this world.' At that time, she was apparently in as good health as any of our other children. Our daughter Augusta, who, you are aware, came out hither in consequence of symptoms of consumption, has apparently been much benefited by the change, for which we feel truly thankful to the Lord."

4. TOBAGO.

FROM BROTHER JOHN MORRISH.

"*Montgomery, July 20th,* 1839.

"DEAR BROTHER,—You will have heard from Brother Coates of our safe arrival in Tobago, after a long and dangerous passage, of which my wife promises to send you an account. We were happy to find the Brethren Coates and Heath, and Sister Coates, by whom we were most cordially welcomed, in the enjoyment of good health.

"As soon as possible, after my arrival, I proceeded to take the necessary steps for commencing the chapel-school on Indian-Walk estate, which is greatly needed, and not less desired by negroes on that and the neighboring properties.

"The Honorable H. P. Hamilton kindly met Brother Coates and myself, at the place originally fixed upon for the intended station, when I solicited, that the site might be changed, to one which appeared far more desirable, both for healthiness, facility of access, and general convenience. To this, Mr. Hamilton most readily agreed. At the former spot, the buildings must have been on the west side of a high hill, and consequently intolerably hot and unhealthy. The present site is elevated, commanding a view of all the estates in the neighborhood, with the advantage of unobstructed air, from north, south, east, and west.

"The following Tuesday the land was surveyed; the accompanying diagram will doubtless enable our kind friend, the proprietor of the estate, to understand at once the spot set apart for us. We hope, that the deeds may be drawn with as little delay as possible, that no time may be lost in beginning the building. In the meantime, I shall continue to clear the land, and get such materials to the place as will be necessary. The neighboring estates have promised some assistance in carting, &c."

VI. MISSION IN FRANCE.

THE following letters from Brother Enequist, our Missionary in France, (the former an original English letter, the latter a translation from the French,) will be read with interest. By a reference to the list of donations appended to the first number of each year of this periodical, it will be seen that the work of the Brethren in France, has for several years received liberal benefactions from a few individuals in this country, whom may the Lord abundantly reward. In presenting these letters to our readers, we cherish the hope, that the highly interesting intelligence contained in them will not only show to the generous benefactors of this Mission that they are aiding in the accomplishment of much good, but that it may also induce others to cause some of their offerings to the Lord to flow into this channel.

Our country is confessedly much indebted to France for her co-operation in the achievement of our national independence; and among American Christians, this may certainly be urged and owned in addition to the higher motives which ought to influence Christian liberality, as a special motive for our aiding in the diffusion of the Gospel in that country, in order that by its means her children may attain to the glorious liberty of the children of God.—*Ed.*

"*Nimes, December 10th,* 1839.

VERY DEAR BROTHER,—Having received a call to labor in the evangelization of France, I arrived here the 24th of October of this year, and found amongst the papers of our dear Brother Mentha, your letter of the 27th of February. In order to continue the correspondence with our dear and esteemed American friends and benefactors, I write these lines, and perform the painful duty to advertise you, that it has pleased our Lord and Saviour to take our dear Brother Jean Mentha into His everlasting joy, after a short sickness, and at the age of forty years. His death, the 13th of September of this year, was a mournful event for all his friends. He had for some years been stationed in the northern part of France, and the southern was for the two last years the field of his blessed activity. Three months before his death, he brought from Switzerland the dear wife whom the Lord had given him, and it seemed as though they would be privileged to labor together for a long time in the vineyard of Christ in this country; but the Lord resolved otherwise, and our dear Sister Mentha returned to her native country, deeply sorrowing under her painful bereavement.

The awakened souls in this country, who most fervently pray for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ, and are earnestly desirous to hear the Gospel, have received me and my family with the greatest joy and cordiality, and now I not only hold the weekly and Sunday meetings here, but I travel much in all directions. I find, that the Lord has opened a wide door to the United Brethren. The many Protestants and their curates and ministers, who live in the mountains of the Cevennes and Pyrenées, in the departments of Languedoc, Gard, Herault, Gironde and Garonne, are desirous to hear the Brethren preach the Gospel in its primitive purity and simplicity. I visited the four pastors of this town, which has 14,000 Protestants. One of them said, "We do not fear the Brethren; they come, not to separate, but in order to revive, our national Church." I have been at St. Hyppolite, a town in the Cevennes with 2000 Protestants. I there not only found twenty members of a Moravian Society, but many persons in all classes, who wish to join them. In Symènes, la Salle, Ganges and le Vigan, are many Protestants, who desire to hear the Gospel. In Codognan and Vergeze, I saw 100 persons in the assemblies, most of them young men, living in the faith and love of Christ. In Montpellier, I was introduced to an assembly of 100 persons, and obliged to preach without any prepation. This is my experience of five weeks, since I am living in France. I find it very necessary to travel and seek the dispersed

Protestants, in order to encourage them, to confess the Lord Jesus; but the awakened souls are all poor, and the work depends upon the assistance of our friends and benefactors. It was therefore with the greatest gratitude our dear Brother Mentha received the gifts from our esteemed dear Mr. Wilder and the American friends of the evangelization of France, and his labors and travelling have been greatly blessed.

You will, dear Brother, very much oblige us and our grateful friends here, by presenting our salutations to dear Mr. Wilder and all our American friends and benefactors. May the Saviour bless them all! Brethren! Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them, who are of the household of faith. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

I am by the grace of our Saviour,
Your loving Brother,
NICOLAS ENEQUIST.

"*Nimes, May* 2d, 1840.

VERY DEAR BROTHER!—May peace be abundantly vouchsafed to you in Christ, our Saviour! Thus I salute you and your dear friends in America, who are also ours, hoping that you have received my letter of December 12th, 1839, in which I informed you of the death of our dear Brother Mentha, and of our call to and arrival in France. I can now give you much interesting intelligence, which you will be rejoiced to hear. For the purpose of pursuing my labors as an Evangelist, I set out on the 12th of January. In the first place I visited Montpellier. For the last three years there has been an awakening in this aristocratic city, which is still progressing, even in the higher classes. I was received in several houses of the rich, where they were happy to see me, and invited me to offer prayer, and at the house of Mr. Lissignol, a clergyman, I presided at a meeting of a hundred persons, all desirous to hear the word of eternal life. The large city of Toulouse contains only 900 Protestants, but among these are numbered more than 100 awakened persons, at whose head is our dear Brother Chabrand the clergyman. The three Brothers Courtois, bankers, received me with much friendship. They are engaged in the work of the Lord, in various ways, and do much good in these parts. At Montauban, where is the Protestant Theological Faculty of France, the awakening is still more extensive. Professors Monod, Encontre, de Felice, Ialaguer, and Pastor Martial, are to us, very dear brethren in Christ. I delivered a discourse in Mr. Martial's meeting, where I saw 300 hearers of all classes, professors, students, ladies, and many young people, much affected and well disposed. Much interest is felt here in the church of the Moravian Brethren, and I received a striking proof of it. With the approbation of the Professors, Madame Frossard, a very dear Sister in Christ, has just made me an offer of her boarding-school of 32 young ladies, which, established on the same

principles with our own schools, has flourished for some time, after hard struggles. As Montauban is a place towards which the eyes of the Christians in France are turned, where there has been an awakening for two years, where young ministers are fitted for the work of the Gospel, where rationalism is at a low ebb, and where our dear Brother Merillat has left a savor of godliness, I could not refuse to examine the overtures of Madame Frossard. I have laid them before our Elders' Conference at Berthelsdorf, and they have accepted and confirmed them. Thus the difficulties which the law of the University had for three years presented to this enterprise of the Brethren, have been removed, and the Lord has opened a new door to the unity of the Brethren in France. On the 1st of July, my wife and myself take upon ourselves the direction and all the responsibilities of the seminary. This arrangement has created great joy, because it is generally felt, that France stands greatly in need of Christian females who have not been brought up in the vanities of the world, and if the Lord will be pleased in his great grace to cause his blessing to rest on this seminary of education, the Moravian church will confer an incalculable benefit upon this country. After our removal to Montauban, our conference at Berthelsdorf will send another Brother to take my place, which is very necessary, because there is enough for us to do, and because we are well received by the pastors, and highly recommended in the public gazettes, such as L'Esperence, Le Semeur, and others. The Rationalists themselves have a certain regard for the church of the Brethren, because it does not condemn and judge with rigor any party, but strives to gain them over, and to unite all in the love of the Saviour. Before my departure from Montauban, a rationalist professor called to see me, saying: "I bring you a donation for your Mission, in token of my respect for the spirit of Christian charity of your church. I desire also to labor for the kingdom of the Lord." I received the donation, fervently hoping that this man, distinguished as a man of learning, may also come to the true knowledge of the truth in Christ. I spent two blessed weeks in Montauban, and started for Bordeaux. In this great city of wine and money, there are also some children of God. Monsieur Laharpe, a very rich man, holds meetings in his house, and has done so for five years. The pastors have a meeting of 200 souls, and the divine blessing accompanies the labors of our dear Brother Schiep among the mariners. I found at Bordeaux so many friends and so much work, that I was detained here three weeks. I have preached in the German, in Danish, and in French, and I kept small meetings here and there in private houses. I also visited St. Fog, a little town seven leagues from Bordeaux, in the vicinity of which there is a great awakening. Mr. Henriquet here has the charge of 400 brethren. Pastor Touse, a worthy and faithful servant of the Lord, and pastor of the National Church, holds meetings in the country almost every day in the week. The country bordering on the river Dordogne, is blessed by the bounties of nature and by the divine grace. I preached here in the church, and presided at several meetings. I also

visited Paris. There are found at present in this superb Sodom, many children of God. As Paris was formerly the focus of the disciples of Voltaire and Robespierre, it is at present the central point of the work of the evangelization of France. The great Christian Societies are rapidly progressing, and are well assisted in the provinces. The ornament and the crown among Parisian Christians is the Duchess of Orleans. She holds meetings herself with her domestics, and several pleasing anecdotes were related to me concerning her. She is a Protestant. Not long since one of the ministers said to her, speaking of a distinguished individual: "Madam, I know nothing about the gentleman, except that he is called a Methodist, a pious man, or a Moravian, if you please." She replied, "Sir, I have also been called so in my native country, and there is but one thing I regret, and that is, that I do not feel myself worthy of such names!" The minister was amazed! Pastors Monod, Audebez, Grandepierre, Pressensée, Wilkes, and others, labor with the divine blessing in this great city. I might relate many more interesting particulars, but you must be acquainted with them from the reports of different Societies;—and therefore I will speak to you of another journey which I have just made among the mountains of the Cevennes, where there are many Protestants, among whom there has for some time been an awakening. In the town of Anduse, I held a meeting at the house of Madame Coulon. Pastor Soulier is our friend, and he labors with the blessing of the Saviour. In the city of St. Jean du Garde the work of the Lord is so extensive that nine meetings have been held in a day. It is but a short time since the awakening began, and because this work was quite unknown here, it met with violent opposition. When the Methodist Brethren held their meetings, there were sometimes three hundred persons assembled before the house, who made a *charivari*, a discordant music, which was followed by throwing stones at the persons coming out of the meeting. I was invited to hold a meeting. The number assembled was very considerable; two rooms were entirely full of people, and although the friends were very much crowded, there reigned among them a peace, an attention and quietness which delighted me. Among the hearers were two young girls, who had taken part in the last *charivari*, and were humbly thankful to God, who had disposed them to quit the crowd of scoffers, and to feel so comfortable among his worshippers. One league from St. Jean du Garde there is a population living among the mountains, who followed the business of assassins and robbers; the wicked men were so formidable, that no person ventured to approach them. Our Brother Schafter was the first, who undertook to hold a meeting among them; other friends have followed his example, and now three-quarters of them are converted, and the remaining fourth-part have forsaken their wicked practices. They hold meetings, engage in prayer, and are regarded by the friends in St. Jean du Garde as their dear Brethren and Sisters in Christ. Yes, my friends, the Gospel of Jesus is gaining ground in France. The gay people of France no longer adore Rousseau and Voltaire, and the time of their salvation is at hand.

The Good Shepherd is seeking his lost sheep among us, and his sheep begin to hear his voice and to follow Him. Interest yourselves for us, dearly beloved American friends, return thanks with us to the Lord! His word is extending and becoming more efficacious, and it is accomplishing among us its great promise: "*I will say to them which were not my people: Thou art my people; and they shall say: Thou art my God.*" Hosea ii. 23.

Finally, my friends, permit me to make one observation. The Church of the Brethren at present occupies a very favorable position in awakened France. It cannot be denied that there are here and there differences and dissentions among the Christians of France, but because the Church of the United Brethren is known by many as pursuing the work of the Lord without party spirit, disposed to unity and brotherly love, our evangelists almost every where find open doors, and are well received. The evangelical pastors offer them their pulpits, and the others do not fear them. In order therefore to unite parties, it is necessary to send Moravian Brethren, and their work will not be in vain in the Lord.

The Lord bless you, dear Brother, and your friends. I entreat you to continue to interest yourself for us, and to participate in the good work of the evangelization of France. Salute affectionately, the Brethren and Sisters in Christ among you, and be assured of the gratitude and the high esteem with which I am,

Your affectionate Brother,

NICOLAS ENEQUIST.

VII. Extracts from the journals of the scripture readers of the brethren in ireland, 1838.

Stations of the Scripture Readers.

Cootehill, *in the county of Cavan.*
Gracefield, *in the county of Londonderry.*
Gracehill, *in the county of Antrim.*
Kilwarlin, *in the county of Down.*
Mourne, *in the county of Down.*

I visited an old Roman Catholic woman, very feeble in body. When I had told her my business, she said: "The Lord bless you! you are very welcome." The rest of the family were working in the field. While I was reading one of Newton's Hymns, a poor old woman, supported on crutches, came in and sat down, and listened attentively while I read the Parable of the Prodigal Son and the 27th chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel. When I had done, she said, (the tears falling fast from her eyes,) "O, that is the great subject, the sufferings of the holy Jesus ought to be nearest to our poor hearts. My afflictions and trials have been very great; but they are nothing to

what Jesus suffered, and His sufferings when viewed aright, sanctify all our afflictions."

Called at G. D's. Found none but his wife at home. She told me some of her trials, one of which was of a very affecting nature, viz. that during the time she lived in Dublin, about four years ago, she took the cholera, and during her illness her little boy, whom she loved as her own soul, likewise took the distemper and died of it. After many inquiries and vague replies from those around her, she discovered that he was dead and buried. This nearly broke her heart. With tears she exclaimed; "O my dear child, that would often reprove me when I would be angry, or speak a foolish word!" O, how I miss thy sweet warning voice!" She then related a dream she had had a few nights before he died. She dreamed she saw her child in heaven, surrounded with lovely children, having dazzling wings attached to their bodies; and that she heard the most melodious strains of music, and that inexpressible sweetness was depicted in every countenance. I told her not to grieve for her son, for he was now enjoying in fullest measure the bliss of the redeemed; and I exhorted her, to give her whole heart to that faithful Shepherd and Saviour, who had taken her dear child away from all pain and sickness into eternal rest.

In C. I overtook a blind woman, who was led by a little girl. Inquiring where she came from and whither she was going; she said, she was brought up near C. and obliged to beg her bread from door to door, and had been blind since she was four years of age. The following coloquy ensued. *Question.* Do you ever hear the Bible read? *Answer.* It is seldom I hear any reading of that kind. *Quest.* Did you ever hear of blind Bartimeus? *Ans.* I think, I did. *Quest.* Would you wish me to read to you? *Ans.* O yes; I should be glad to hear you. *Quest.* Do you know any thing about Jesus Christ? *Ans.* Yes, I do. He is a great Saviour, for He opened the eyes of Bartimeus.—I accompanied her to a house; but, being inhabited by Roman Catholics, I was not allowed to read. I however, conversed with the poor blind woman, telling her, that Jesus not only opened the eyes of blind Bartimeus, but pardoned his sins also, and that she might have her spiritual eyes opened if she looked by faith to Jesus.—Had it not been for this poor woman, I should not have found utterance in this house, the inmates of which appeared to be blinder than this woman herself, as to spiritual things. When I attempt to read in such a family, and meet with the scornful indifference they show to the Scriptures, I feel distressed; but am presently revived again, when in other places I meet with open ears and willing hearts to receive the Word of Life. Indeed, I have much cause to thank the Lord, that the instances of persons manifesting open contempt of the Scriptures. are but few.

Visited two Presbyterian families of the name of A. Seeing a good many children in the first house, the mother on inquiry told me they had eight, I asked her, "Do you not take them with you to meeting?" She replied; "No; I have not been myself these eight months, and I remember the time, when I thought the week long and dreary if I did not go to the meeting on the Sabbath." I continued; "Surely if you do not go yourself, you send your sons and daughters." "No, indeed," was her answer, "nor them neither." I again asked, "Pray will you tell me the reason for acting so strangely?" She made some frivolous excuse. "Ah!" said I, "this is not the way in which your dear mother brought you up; for you say yourself you longed for the Sabbath; that you might enter the House of Prayer; and now you are bringing up your numerous family in ignorance and darkness, which are the forerunners of perdition. Give your children the same fair chance, that you have had yourself, and set them a good example, and let them not forsake, or neglect the House of God, wherein counsel and instruction are given to all who enter." The eldest daughter burst into tears; but said nothing. The other family, consisting of father and mother and two little girls, I found waiting for me. The children said their lessons to me which they had learnt at the Sunday school. I read the Parable of the ten virgins, and made some remarks on it.

On my return from M. I visited a woman afflicted with a cancer. I found her much weaker than the last time I saw her; but in a state of humble dependence on the Lord. She said, "At first, when violently attacked by pain, I was in such an excited, despairing state, that I could not keep quiet. My head was in such a wild distracted state, that I could not think of any portion of Scripture for my comfort. But the Lord has in mercy enabled me to believe that my sins are pardoned. I believe His blood is able to wash me clean from all my guilt. My afflictions have been great; but they have proved a blessing for me, for I now feel stayed upon the Lord. Though in excruciating pain, I believe He will enable me to bear it. I wish to be purified from all dross and defilement of the flesh, and at last to be found completely without sin." While I set forth from the Scriptures the unbounded love of Christ, she expressed the abundant consolation she received therefrom. At a subsequent visit I found her extremely weak and apparently near her end. She had anxiously waited for my arrival, but was not able to speak. Her mind was evidently stayed on the Lord, trusting in Him. I sang some verses, accompanied by her daughter and another female; read and prayed, commending her to this compassionate Physician. On the day of her funeral I went to the house, and as I was requested, delivered an exhortation previous to the interment of the body. In my address I endeavored to correct the erroneous opinion, too prevalent in this country, especially among Roman Catholics, to wit, that the sufferings, which a person endures during this life, prove meritorious, and

prepare him for happiness in the life to come. I showed, that, in as far as the sufferings of the deceased had by the Holy Ghost been made the means of leading her to consider and lay hold of the merit of Christ's sufferings, they had proved a blessing to her: but no further. And in this way they might prove a blessing to any one.

Visited seven Roman Catholic and Protestant families. The first had been afflicted with fever.—A day or two before my visit, the mother had not been expected to live; but now appeared somewhat better. Her husband, who was working in the field, having observed me going into the house, came in, thanked me for coming, and expressed his hope, that his wife would recover for the sake of their eight small children. I endeavored to direct his mind to God's purpose in afflicting us. He acknowledged that they deserved chastisement at His hands.—In the next house, being all in good health except a little child, they had no ears for my reading; so I passed on, not thinking it prudent to force it upon them.—The third family, who on a former occasion had requested me to come again, had no objection to my reading.—The next two received me in a friendly way. In the latter the woman asked me to read, saying that her mother in particular was very fond of it, being in a very poor state of health. O that the time may soon come, when these poor creatures shall receive the Word of God without prejudice! The last two had been visited with sickness, and therefore were glad to see me. In one of them their little daughter could read well in the Testament, and I exhorted them to make her read often. They had three copies, which had been given them from time to time.

Our minister being from home, I, at his request, opened the Sunday-school in the morning, with singing, reading, and prayer. I was glad to see a number of Roman Catholic children present; but, alas! though they are here taught to read and are supplied with Testaments, yet the Priest will not allow them to read them at home. Still, it is surely a matter of thankfulness, that they are permitted to attend the school; and it is to be hoped, that impressions will be made upon their tender hearts never to be erased. There were 54 boys and 68 girls present. In the afternoon I was called to a young man, who had broken a blood vessel and was not expected to live. He had walked in the ways of his heart, and in the sight of his eyes, and now it seemed as though God were bringing him into judgment. He had lost his health a year before, and been faithfully visited and warned by my predecessor; but as soon as he felt a little better he ran in his former course. He was now too weak to speak; but it was easy to see that he felt deeply.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

1. North America.—Brother Christian Miksch writes from Westfield, West of Missouri, that on the 5th of December, the long-expected arrival of the portion of our emigrating Indians who had remained at Greenbay, and spent more than two years there, at length took place. They had performed the journey from there in company of the Monsey Indians, and of a number of Mahikander Indians, who had emigrated from Upper Canada at the same time with them. The entire emigrating congregation, with the exception of those who had since then died, and of a few who had not yet arrived, were thus once more together. The portion just arrived, now greatly regretted that they had not immediately removed with the rest to Missouri, since during their abode in the vicinity of Greenbay, they had not only consumed all their substance, but because many of them had suffered harm in their souls. But they were happy to be again with the congregation of believers, and they promised in future to follow the Good Shepherd who had brought them from their wanderings back to the fold, with greater faithfulness and obedience. The meetings of which they had so long been deprived, were now attended by them with diligence and attention. The celebration of Christmas was particularly animated and blessed; many heathen taking part in it. As their church could not by far contain all who had assembled, benches were placed out of doors aside of the open church doors, tent cloths put up over them for a shelter, and a great log-fire was lighted, so that all were enabled to take part in the services. The number of communicants was also increased by re-admissions and confirmations. Our Missionaries felt much encouraged by such proofs of new spiritual life, especially as among those who had returned from their wanderings, there could not but be painful and disheartening occurrences. Some of the new comers had already built their winter houses. But about the support of all of them, before they would be able by agriculture to raise provisions, the Missionaries felt much uneasiness. They felt so much the more thankful that for the first our Indian Brethren succeeded in obtaining a considerable supply of venison and deer skins by the chase. Most of the Indians had recovered from the fever which had prevailed among them. Under date of March 30th, Br. Miksch writes that they found much cause for thankfulness for the blessings experienced in their meetings by which many souls were led to a better knowledge of the love of God our Saviour, who follows them with so much forbearance and patience. They had been obliged to help out the newly arrived with corn for their support;—on the part of the government too, rations of corn, meal, and salt, for 20 days, had been distributed among them.

2. Arkansas.—Brother Van Vleck writes July 2d, that the following intelligence had been received from the Missionaries among

the Cherokees. The health of the Missionaries began to improve, but among the Indians the fever still prevailed, and a considerable number of them died of this disease. For five or six months no meeting could be held, and school-keeping was also out of the question. It was doubtful whether they would be able to continue at their present location, since their Cherokees, discouraged by the sickness, spoke strongly of moving to Beattie's Prairie, in which vicinity Brother George Hicks had settled. The Eastern and Western Cherokees had united in a common form of government, and elected their new officers, at the head of whom was Mr. John Ross, as principal chief. To these authorities and the National Council, the petition of the P. H. C. at Salem had been presented, and permission had been granted to the Missionaries to continue the Mission and the school instruction. But the national government of the Cherokees has reserved to itself the right to appoint the different Missionaries their places, where to establish themselves, and to subject their schools to the supervision and examination of a committee appointed for the purpose. A delegation has again been sent by the nation to Washington, among whom is Brother George Hicks. At the beginning of December, an attempt was made to hold meeting again with the few whose health would permit them to attend. On Christmas, they celebrated the Lord's Supper with 11 communicants. At the end of the year, the little congregation consisted of about 40 adults, and 59 children and youth ; 9 persons had died. A young female Indian had applied for baptism.

3. New Fairfield, U. C.—Brother Abraham Luckenbach writes January 18th, that the Missionaries there are all well, and that the fever which had prevailed among the Indians, had mostly subsided. The chase had been productive, the Indians having killed about 100 deer. The course of the congregation was on the whole encouraging. Christmas, New Year, and Epiphany, were blessed days, and the meetings were diligently attended. The schools were regularly kept, and many of the children had made handsome progress in reading and writing. At the end of 1839, the Indian congregation consisted of 124 persons, being an increase of nine during the year. Of these, 29 were communicants, and 66 baptized.

4. West Indies.—Brother Zorn writes from Jamaica, under date of March 31st. At the close of 1839, there were about 12,000 souls on 11 stations in charge of the Brethren ; and in the same year, the negroes contributed more than $6000 for the support of the Mission, which had been very expensive on account of the building of churches and school-houses. The negroes are becoming more and more industrious and orderly. Many of them purchase a few acres of land, and the possession of such a property is an approved means of accustoming them to a regular and steady course of life. The Missionaries therefore intend to purchase a tract of land in the vicinity of Nazareth, in order to sell it again in small parcels to the negro members.

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